

Jack Sargeant MS
Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Skills and Social Partnership
Welsh Government

20 December 2024

Charging for visitor experiences and exhibitions by Amgueddfa Cymru

Dear Jack,

I write to seek urgent clarification about a policy, after your appearance at the Committee's meeting on 28 November 2024. The matter on which our Committee is keen to seek that clarification is about the Welsh Government's policy relating to the introduction of charges for curated experiences such as talks, tours, and exhibitions at Amgueddfa Cymru (that is, outside of the principle of free entry to the national collection at the point of access).

Specifically, I would appreciate clarification on the following points:

Governance and Decision-Making

- Is it your view that decisions relating to charges for visitor experiences and exhibitions fall solely within the remit of the governing body of Amgueddfa Cymru?

Ensuring Accessibility

In evidence to the Committee on 11 December 2024, Amgueddfa Cymru reported that 83% of visitors to Big Pit participate in the underground tour.

- How does the Welsh Government propose to ensure that any charges for this tour will not create barriers to participation, particularly for those visitors from disadvantaged backgrounds?

Charging for the underground tour at Big Pit

In oral evidence to the Committee on 13 November 2024, you said, "What I would be concerned about is if that did have an impact on access to culture. I'd be keen to understand if that is the case." In your written evidence for the evidence session on 28 November 2024, you said, "The admissions policy for a museum is a matter for its governing body."

- In what circumstances, if any, would you intervene in decisions taken by Amgueddfa Cymru about charging for visitor experiences and exhibitions?

Impact Assessment and Data Collection

During the evidence session, we noted and welcomed your commitment to providing the Committee with further information about the collection of comprehensive data by Amgueddfa Cymru for assessing the effect of charging trials on access and participation.

- Could you confirm when this information will be made available?
- Finally, could you confirm whether the Welsh Government will ensure that decisions to charge for visitor experiences and exhibitions will not proceed until the effects on access and participation have been fully assessed and considered?

Your prompt response on these matters would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,



Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.