



The University of Manchester  
Manchester Museum

Manchester Museum  
The University of Manchester  
Oxford Road  
Manchester M13 9PL

+44(0)161 275 2648  
[www.manchester.ac.uk/museum](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/museum)

Bethan Jenkins AM/ AC  
Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

30 October 2016

Dear Ms Jenkins

I am writing to you as the Director of Manchester Museum, one of the leading University Museums in the UK, to raise my concerns about some of the proposals currently being considered in relation to Amgueddfa Cymru/the National Museum of Wales. I understand that a proposal has been made to merge the commercial functions of the Museum with those of Cadw, to form a new organization Historic Wales.

I would urge considerable caution before proceeding with such a step, and would strongly suggest that the matter be subject to consultation with the public and with the heritage sector, particularly as it implies a major change to the nature and functions of Amgueddfa Cymru. There are a number of problems with the proposal, including:

- It will be very difficult for a Museum to operate sustainably if its commercial operations are taken away from it, in an environment where museums have become increasingly adept at developing income-generating activities
- A large proportion of the Museum's collections are not concerned principally with history, but with science and the natural environment, and their future will be uncertain under these proposals

I do hope that time will be taken to reflect on the ramifications of any proposals before regrettable damage is done to a great national institution.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Merriman".

Dr Nick Merriman  
Director