

2013

Freedom of Information Request

Reference number – 13-015

Please accept this email as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act.

Please can I see a list of all recorded thefts and breakages of exhibits at all of the National Museum Wales's museums since January 1, 2012. Please name the specific exhibits in the list and, where possible, could you note whether the exhibits were recovered or fixed.

I understand that under the Act you have 20 working days to respond to my request - the first being August 2, 2013.

Amgueddfa Cymru
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Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales
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national
museum
wales
amgueddfa
cymru

Reference no.: 13 - 015

22 August 2013

Dear,

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION – *Information relating to recorded thefts and breakages of exhibits at all of the National Museum Wales' museums since January 1, 2012.*

Thank you for your request for information. As Head of Knowledge and Information Management for Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales ('the Museum'), I am responsible for responding to your request for information.

I refer to your email of the 1 August 2013, in which you asked for the following information:

List of all recorded thefts and breakages of exhibits at all of the National Museum Wales' museums since January 1, 2012. Please name the specific exhibits in the list and, where possible, could you note whether the exhibits were recovered or fixed.

Response

In responding to your request for information, I will be providing a response in two parts: the first part provides the list of recorded thefts for Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales as a whole and the second part focuses on the breakages for each of the museums separately.

Part 1

Objects reported as thefts within Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales between 1 January 2012 and 2 August 2013.

Exhibit (object)	Recovered (yes/no)
Wooden spoon	Not recovered
Lead removed from a building	Not recovered
Pink lustre tea cup	Not recovered
Gaudy Welsh egg cup	Not recovered
Tony a Aloma (single)	Not recovered
Imitation tortoise shell comb	Not recovered
Wooden box of dominos	Not recovered
Tea caddy	Not recovered

Part 2

The following is a list by Museum of exhibited objects damaged while on display.

Museum	Exhibited object damaged	Repaired (yes/no)
Big Pit: National Coal Museum	0	0
St Fagans: National History Museum	Figurine	Repaired and back on display
	Embroidery	Conservation lab
	Part of a Cruet set	Repaired and back on display
	Chair	Repaired and back on display
	Butter scales	Repaired and back on display
	Hair brush	Conservation lab
	Decanter	Repaired and back

		on display
	Frame	Conservation lab
	Jug	Conservation lab
	Cup	Conservation lab
	Saucer	Conservation lab
	Gravy boat	Conservation lab
	Figurine	Conservation lab
National Museum Cardiff – Department of Art	One object (tile panel) which was on loan as part of the Artes Mundi exhibition was broken.	Repaired in house
National Museum Cardiff - Clore Discovery Centre This is the hands-on discovery and learning space within the National Museum Cardiff.	Cow femur	Repaired
	Horse tibia	Repair pending
	Cone shell	Awaiting replacement
	Sheep radius	Repaired
	Cat jaw	repaired
	Worm cast shell	Withdrawn
	Cat scapula	Withdrawn
	Plastic toy screwdriver	Awaiting replacement
	Fossil belemnite	Repaired but after 3 rd break have decided to make a cast
	Replica mammoth tooth	Continue to be used
	Dinosaur rib fossil	Repaired
	Crinoid fossil	Awaiting repair
	Small replica ceramic crucible	Repair pending
	Sheep bone (archaeological)	Repaired
	Roman Caerleon orangeware potsherd	Continue to be used
Medieval pottery sherd	Continue to be used	
Teapot lid	Replacing teapot	
National Roman Legion Museum	One object was damaged – Bath Stone Coffin – a piece of the lid which had been previously reconstructed had	The coffin lid has been secured but the piece which was broken off has not been returned. There are plans to

	been broken off.	undertake repairs in the autumn.
National Wool Museum	0	0
National Slate Museum	Book, 'Chips, Joe and Mike' was damaged.	The book was damaged beyond repair.
National Waterfront Museum	The working replica of the 1804 Penydarren locomotive was damaged whilst being demonstrated as part of the regular series of 'in steam' demonstrations.	Work to repair the left hand rear axle is scheduled to be carried out later in 2013.

Your request was considered according to the principles set out in the National Assembly's Code of Practice on Public Access to Information (third edition). The Code is published on the Internet at www.information.wales.gov.uk.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to the Director of Collections and Research at the following address:

Mr John Williams-Davies
 Director of Collections and Research
 Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales
 Cathays Park
 Cardiff
 CF10 3NP

When dealing with any concerns, we will follow the principles of the National Museum of Wales's Code of Practice on Complaints, which is available on our website at www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/45/.

Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) if you are not content with the outcome of your complaint or review. Generally, the ICO will not make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Museum.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

I apologise that Amgueddfa Cymru cannot assist you with all aspects of your request but if you have any further queries or concerns then please contact me via my email address.

Yours sincerely,

Head of Knowledge & Information Management