

2013

Freedom of Information Request

Reference number – 13-019

Fossil fuel companies

1. If you currently receive or in future plan to receive any sponsorship from fossil fuel companies?
2. If you have any investments (either through pension plans, direct investments or other) in fossil fuel companies and if so if you plan to divest from these and when.
3. If you source your electricity from renewables and if you plan to change this and when.

Reference no.: 13-019

26 November 2013

Dear

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION – *Information relating fossil fuel companies*

Thank you for your request for information. As Museum Secretary for Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales ('the Museum'), I am responsible for responding to your request for information.

I refer to your email of 29 October 2013, in which you asked for the following information:

1. *If you currently receive or in future plan to receive any sponsorship from fossil fuel companies?*
2. *If you have any investments (either through pension plans, direct investments or other) in fossil fuel companies and if so if you plan to divest from these and when.*
3. *If you source your electricity from renewables and if you plan to change this and when.*

Response

In responding to your request for information, we consider it to mean companies that either produce or render useable fossil fuels or use them for the production of energy. This is the basis on which the request has been considered, under the Environmental Information Regulations.

I will be referring to each element of your request separately.

If you currently receive or in future plan to receive any sponsorship from fossil fuel companies?

- We currently receive no sponsorship from companies dealing in fossil fuels and are not planning to receive sponsorship from a fossil fuel company.

If you have any investments (either through pension plans, direct investments or other) in fossil fuel companies and if so if you plan to divest from these and when.

- The Museum's response relates to the Museum's own investments in fossil fuel companies. The Museum's Pension Scheme is a separate entity to the Museum. It is held and administered by the Trustees of the Scheme (rather than the Museum's Board of Trustees) and governed by its own trust deed and rules of governance. Therefore any investments held by the Pension Scheme have not been considered when dealing with this request.
- We do not hold any direct equity holdings within the investment portfolio. All equity holdings are collective investment vehicles. Some of these funds hold a small percentage of mining stocks and those companies will have a portion of their revenues being derived from fossil fuels. These percentages are very small and normal investment business practise would be not to exclude Unit Trust holdings on these basis.
- The percentages held within both the mining and oil & gas sectors that would have exposure/revenue generation from fossil fuel usage and/or extraction are shown below. These have been calculated from the holdings within the equity unit trusts and also the commodity fund holdings within the portfolio.

Mining exposure – 3.73%

Oil & Gas exposure – 7.13%

- The Museum does not have any plans to divest from Unit Trusts/Investment Vehicles that own stocks within either of these sectors.

If you source your electricity from renewables and if you plan to change this and when.

- The Museum procures its contracts for electricity using the office of government commerce for its major contracts and from smaller suppliers for some of the smaller museum sites. We are not aware of any of these contracts having a requirement to source renewable electricity.
- None of the Museum's suppliers provide the Museum with renewables in their mix. This is essentially due to the Museum's charitable status, which means the Museum does not pay the Climate Change Levy.
- However the Museum has photo-voltaic arrays at four of its sites, St Fagans: National History Museum; National Waterfront Museum; National Collections Centre Nantgarw; and Big Pit: National Coal Museum. Electricity produced from these sources is mainly used to heat and light our museums. There is therefore an element of renewable electricity that is used at these sites.

- In addition, the Combined Heat & Power Unit at National Museum Cardiff uses gas to generate electricity – which is effectively on-site generation.

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 Finance and Corporate Resources at the following address:

Mr. Neil Wicks
Director of Finance and Corporate Resources
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

Yours sincerely

Elaine Cabuts
Museum Secretary