

Amgueddfa Lleng Rufeinig Cymru
Stryd Fawr, Caerllion NP18 1AE
Ffôn: 0300 111 2 333
Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg
National Roman Legion Museum
High Street, Caerleon NP18 1AE
Tel: 0300 111 2 333
We welcome correspondence in Welsh

national
roman legion
museum
amgueddfa
lleng rufeinig
cymru

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
17 January 2018
[REDACTED]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION – *Information relating to items removed from display*

Thank you for your email received 30 December 2017. This has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. As Museum Secretary for Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales, I am responsible for responding to your request for information.

Your email states:

I would like to request the following information under The Freedom of Information Act.

I understand my request will take 20 working days to process but I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt via
[REDACTED]

Please do treat any environmental information as a request for information under The Environmental Information Regulations.

*Please note that my request relates solely to **National Museum Wales** and I am only interested in information which was generated between 1 January 2016 and the present day.*

1...During the aforementioned period has the Museum removed an item (s) from public display because it believed the item (s) was likely to cause offence on the grounds of race, gender, disability, religious belief or sexual orientation. Please do include items which have been approved for removal but have not yet been removed.

Llywydd / President Elisabeth Elias MA DL
Is-Lywydd / Vice President Dr Carol Bell PhD, DLitt
Cyfarwyddwr Cyffredinol / Director General David Anderson OBE
Trysorydd / Treasurer Laurence Pavelin CBE FCA
Elusen Cofrestredig / Registered charity: 525774
Rhif TAW / VAT number: GB 783 4541 10
amgueddfa.cymru / museum.wales

national
museum
wales
amgueddfa
cymru

ysbrydoli pobl
newid bywydau
inspiring people
changing lives



2...If the answer to the above question is yes can you please provide the following details. Can you identify each item removed from the collection. In the case of each item can you please provide a photograph or visual image. In the case of each item can you say why and when it was removed from the collection. In the case of each item can you please provide copies of any documents which in any way relate to the removal of the item from public view. Please do include items which have been approved for removal but have not yet been removed.

3...During the aforementioned period has the Museum removed any item (s) from public display because it believed the item (s) wrongly celebrated The British Empire, the country's Imperial past; Britain's role in slave trade, a particular individual's role in the slave trade or the country's past military exploits. Please do include items which have been approved for removal but have not yet been removed.

4...If the answer to the above question is yes can you please provide the following details. Can you identify each item removed from the collection. In the case of each item can you please provide a copy of a photograph or visual image. In the case of each item can you say why and when it was removed from the collection. In the case of each item can you please provide copies of any documents which in any way relate to the removal of the item from public view. Please do include items which have been approved for removal but have not yet been removed.

5...Irrespective of whether any item has been removed from the collection has the Museum been asked by an outside body or individual to remove items from the collection because of any of the reasons outlined in questions one and three. If the answer is yes can you please provide any written correspondence received by the Museum. Can you please detail how the Museum responded to the request. Can you please provide copies of any written replies sent by the Museum to the relevant body.

RESPONSE

Taking each question in turn, I respond as follows:

1...During the aforementioned period has the Museum removed an item (s) from public display because it believed the item (s) was likely to cause offence on the grounds of race, gender, disability, religious belief or sexual orientation. Please do include items which have been approved for removal but have not yet been removed.

No, the Museum has not removed any items from public display, neither does it have items that have been approved for removal but have not yet been removed.

2...If the answer to the above question is yes can you please provide the following details. Can you identify each item removed from the collection. In the case of each item can you please provide a photograph or visual image. In the case of each item can you say why and when it was removed from the collection. In the case of each item can you please provide copies of any documents which in any way relate to the removal of the item from public view. Please do include items which have been approved for removal but have not yet been removed.

Not applicable.

3...During the aforementioned period has the Museum removed any item (s) from public display because it believed the item (s) wrongly celebrated The British Empire, the country's Imperial past; Britain's role in slave trade, a particular individual's role in the slave trade or the country's past military exploits. Please do include items which have been approved for removal but have not yet been removed.

No, the Museum has not removed any items from public display, neither does it have items that have been approved for removal but have not yet been removed.

4...If the answer to the above question is yes can you please provide the following details. Can you identify each item removed from the collection. In the case of each item can you please provide a copy of a photograph or visual image. In the case of each item can you say why and when it was removed from the collection. In the case of each item can you please provide copies of any documents which in any way relate to the removal of the item from public view. Please do include items which have been approved for removal but have not yet been removed.

Not applicable.

5...Irrespective of whether any item has been removed from the collection has the Museum been asked by an outside body or individual to remove items from the collection because of any of the reasons outlined in questions one and three. If the answer is yes can you please provide any written correspondence received by the Museum. Can you please detail how the Museum responded to the request. Can you please provide copies of any written replies sent by the Museum to the relevant body.

The Museum received one complaint within the timeframe of your request concerning a swear word that appeared as graffiti in the background of one of a series of photographs taken inside a steelworks. This was a borrowed-in temporary photographic

exhibition held at the National Waterfront Museum, Swansea. The correspondence is below. In accordance with both Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act, and the Principles of the Data Protection Act, we have redacted personal information from this correspondence.

Complainant: *Hi [redacted]. I visited the Waterfront Museum yesterday and was both horrified and disgusted that there for all to see on one of the walls is a framed image (not sure what it is meant to illustrate!) but which has the 4 letter word C- - - on full display. I cannot believe that such language is allowed on public display for all to see - including children. What kind of example does this set? I cannot see any valid reason for this to be displayed and, personally, I would like it to be removed. I can't explain exactly where it is situated but it is on the wall up upstairs in the gallery. I just had to express my view on this.*

Staff: *Hi [redacted], we are aware of it and talked about it in our exhibitions meetings. The decision was made to display the artist's work as it came to us. I have to say you are the first person to pick it up (I saw it straight away too). I'll pass on your comments to [redacted] and see what [redacted] says.*

Complainant: *Thanks [redacted]. I hope it is removed. Just because no one else has commented doesn't mean no one else feels as I do or hasn't noticed. It just means no one has complained. Please let me know what your boss says. Thanks. Just emailed now (I'm off today)*

Staff: *Hi [redacted], it's as |I thought, here is [redacted] reply to me: 'I am sorry that [redacted] was upset, but as you rightly said to [redacted], the word is part of a photograph of worker's graffiti in a room in the Ebbw Vale steel works back in the early 2000s. This is not a gratuitous obscenity but an incidental element of an historic documentary photograph that helps explain the culture of the workplace at the time. Because of this and because the photo is well above the sight-line of young children, we decided that the image should remain within the exhibition, which is only on display for a short time.'*

This is me now, I appreciate that this will offend some people too [redacted] but I can also see [redacted] point about not censoring history. it is a fine line to tread for us with exhibitions.

Complainant: *Thanks [redacted]. When I looked at it I didn't even see that it was an image of a locker room at the works. ALL I saw was the word itself. Even though it is showing history I still feel it should not be on display. I would say the same of any historical document. They can be made available to the public for research etc but I can't agree that it is ok for public display just because it is history. Thanks for responding to my complaint."*

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 http://www.assembly.wales/en/abthome/about_us-commission_assembly_administration/abt-foi/Pages/abt-foi-cop-pub.aspx

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

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

If you have any further queries or concerns then please contact me via my email address.

Yours sincerely

Elaine Cabuts
Museum Secretary