

Museums Association statement on the Randerson Report

The Museums Association is very concerned about the Welsh Government's endorsement of proposals set out in the Randerson Report and their impact on Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales.

The Randerson Report by PwC – [Investing in the Future to Protect the Past](#) – sets out plans that include the potential merger of National Museum Wales with other heritage bodies, and the absorption of its commercial activities into an agency under the direct control of the Welsh Government. These proposals are a clear threat to the future of the national museum as an arms-length public body, and would undermine the organisation's ability to carry out its core functions as a national museum for Wales.

The Report's suggestion that it has based its recommendations on best practice in Scotland and England is highly misleading. No other government in the UK has sought to directly control its national museums, or to incorporate museums' activities into a generic heritage organisation. There is no precedent for such a move, and the Museums Association believes that the Welsh Government must guarantee the independence and financial sustainability of the highly-respected national museum as these proposals are developed further.

Instead of undermining the national museum, the Welsh Government should now focus its efforts on delivering the recommendations of the [Welsh Review of Local Government Museums](#) – which it has ignored since August 2015 – in order to build a stronger museum sector across Wales.

ENDS

About the Museums Association

The Museums Association is the largest UK membership organisation representing museums and galleries and the people who work for them. It has over 6,800 individual members and 600 institutional members, including national, local authority, independent, university and military museums. It was formed in 1889 and is a not-for-profit charity that seeks to inform, represent and develop museums and the people who work for them in order that they may provide a better service to society and the public.