

Amgueddfa Cymru Statement: 2021/22 Amgueddfa Cymru Annual Report and Accounts – Auditor General's report

The matters raised in the Auditor General's report relate to unprecedented events that occurred during an extremely challenging period for the museum.

Despite the Auditor General being satisfied with Amgueddfa Cymru's financial systems, controls and reported financial performance, we recognise that the Audit Wales report includes a qualified regularity audit opinion for the 21-22 accounting year. This was due to two issues:

The first relates to the decision to engage in a mediation/negotiation process with the former Director General, the delegation of responsibility for approving the settlement arrangement to two trustees, and the setting of the terms of the delegation.

Secondly, governance concerns highlighted in Audit Wales' 2020/21 report continued into the 2021/22 reporting period, although the auditor reflects those arrangements improved during the latter half of 2021/22.

Due to confidential nature of related legal agreements in place, we are unable to comment on any matters involving any current or previous appointed representatives or members of staff employed by Amgueddfa Cymru - Museum Wales.

Amgueddfa Cymru can confirm that it has always acted under legal guidance and, working with Welsh Government, considered all available options in the best interests of Amgueddfa Cymru.

The Museum has taken a number of learnings from this difficult period, and the board of trustees have since reviewed and modernised governance arrangements. These include:

- Employed a new grievance policy for senior staff.
- New alternative dispute resolution measures have been drafted and currently in consultation with trade unions.
- Terms and conditions of new chief executive role revised to reflect and support more stringent governance arrangements.
- Review of governance processes and procedures underway, led by the new Chair.

These events also took place at a time when the Welsh Government-commissioned tailored review was being carried out. That review identified recommendations that will strengthen processes within Amgueddfa Cymru. A task and finish group has been set up to take forward the recommendations and we are pleased that Welsh Government is represented on this group.

Under the leadership of the new Chair and Chief Executive, we are now looking to move forward and focus on delivering inspirational, inclusive and impactful experiences in all our museums for the people of Wales.

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