

Dear Colleagues

Historic Wales

Later today, the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure will make a statement on the manifesto commitment to create 'Historic Wales', bringing together many of the commercial functions of the Welsh Historic Environment Service (Cadw) and Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales.

These national institutions, along with others, are custodians for much of the nation's unique historic heritage and have responsibility for providing an excellent visitor experience, high-quality educational services and academic research. The objective of Historic Wales is to enable the sector to work more closely together in promoting these attractions and maximising their commercial potential for the benefit of the heritage.

Earlier this year, PwC were commissioned by the Welsh Government to examine options for creating a more sustainable historic heritage sector. In the Cabinet Secretary's statement he will explain that he is publishing in full the PwC report as well as creating a new steering group to take this work forward.

The steering group includes representatives from Cadw, Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales, the National Library of Wales and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, as well as recognised trade union representation. Justin Albert, Director of the National Trust for Wales has been asked to chair the group in an independent capacity.

We appreciate that any announcement regarding potential new structures or commercial operations is potentially unsettling. We are writing to assure you that we, alongside full trade union representation, view this as a opportunity to safeguard, grow and improve the sector. If you have any concerns at this stage please speak to your line manager or your trade union representative.

With competing demands for limited resources, it is crucial that we all work in collaboration to evaluate whether the structures underpinning our sector are fit for purpose and whether we could achieve more if we work even closer together.

The steering group will oversee the development of a business case which will be considered by the Cabinet Secretary in January 2017. This will be followed by a full public consultation on the proposals. The group will consider the responses to the consultation prior to finalising their advice to the Cabinet Secretary.