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## **Welsh Assembly Government's Response to the Recommendations of the Audit Committee Report 'Collections Management at the National Museums and Galleries of Wales'**

Thank you for your letter of 29 September 2004 asking for advice on the Welsh Assembly Government's response to the recommendations made by the Audit Committee in its report Collections Management at the National Museums and Galleries of Wales.

The response states that the Welsh Assembly Government accepts all thirteen of the Committee's recommendations. Good progress is reported on some of the recommendations, for instance (under recommendation 1), work by the National Museums and Galleries for Wales (the Museum) to establish a 'vision' to define its future direction is well-advanced. A consultative vision statement is due to be published in January 2005, with implementation from April 2005 onwards.

However, the response to a number of the other recommendations is dependent on the development of this vision and, as a consequence, the response is not specific on how these recommendations will be addressed. For example (under recommendation 2) until the Museum, through its vision, clarifies its strategic priorities for documenting its collections, it is not clear how the Museum intends to improve its documentation, beyond the initial target of computerising 40 per cent of these records by the end of March 2005.

Under recommendation 8, the response states that the Museum will, by January 2005, extend its impact assessment to every acquisition. However, the response is not clear whether it also intends to undertake a more rigorous assessment, as recommended by the Committee, or how it intends to monitor collection growth to inform its future storage and conservation needs.

Given the work still to be undertaken by the Museum to determine how it will address some of the Committee's recommendations, the Committee may find it helpful to have an update from the Museum, in about 12 months time. This would provide a more detailed response on how the Museum is implementing the Committee's recommendations and the progress it has made to date. The Museum could also update the Committee on the progress that it has made in reducing some of the significant

backlogs in its work.

I hope that you find this response helpful.

Yours sincerely

**MARTIN PETERS**

**Private Secretary to the Auditor General for Wales**