

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref AT/HL/05808/11

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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Dear Mr Langley

Thank you for your email to the First Minister on 14 October regarding the future of the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) in Wales. As Director of CyMAL: Museums Archives and Libraries Wales, I have been asked to reply.

I wholeheartedly agree that this is an extremely important scheme and the role of the Finds Liaison Officer is crucial in recording and protecting our archaeological heritage.

From 1998 to 2006 the PAS was funded across Wales and England by the Heritage Lottery Fund. When this funding came to an end, the Department for Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS), took over responsibility for funding the scheme. The scheme is managed by the British Museum. The Welsh Government and Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales (AC-NMW), where the Finds Liaison Officer is based, already make a financial contribution towards the cost of the scheme in Wales.

Following a reduction in the ring-fenced funding for the scheme from the DCMS, the British Museum advised that it would no longer be able to operate the scheme in Wales. Given its success and popularity officials in CyMAL: Museums Archives and Libraries Wales have explored alternative options. We have therefore been in extensive contact with the British Museum, which has agreed to continue providing some financial support. The Minister has also recently agreed additional funding from the Welsh Government. These steps will ensure the continuation of the scheme, including the important post of Finds Liaison Officer, in Wales.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for writing to the First Minister on this issue.

Linda Tomos
Director, CyMAL: Museums Archives and Libraries Wales



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