

**National Museums Scotland
Board Of Trustees**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2024
AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SCOTLAND, EDINBURGH**

Present:

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| Mr Ian Russell | Chair |
| Ms Mimi Brophy | Trustee |
| Dr Hermione Cockburn | Trustee |
| Ms Judith Cruickshank | Trustee |
| Mr Stephen Dando | Trustee |
| Prof Manuel Fernández-Götz | Trustee |
| Mr Graeme Gibson | Trustee |
| Dr Bridget McConnell | Trustee |
| Ms Sally Mackay | Trustee |
| Prof Richard Oram | Trustee |
| Ms Jandy Stevenson | Trustee |
| Prof Ian Wall | Trustee |
| Dr Laura Young | Trustee |

In Attendance:

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|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Dr Chris Breward (CB) | NMS Director |
| Mr Keith Pentland (KP) | Director of Finance & Resources |
| Dr Sam Alberti (SA) | Director of Collections |
| Ms Helen Ireland (HI) | Director of External Relations |
| Ms Ruth Gill (RG) | Director of Public Programmes |

Apologies:

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| Ms Ann Allen | Trustee |
| Ms Beth McKillop | Trustee |

PRE-MEETING SESSION

John Giblin (Keeper of Global Arts, Culture and Design) gave an overview of the Global Arts, Culture and Design Department's work, current opportunities and challenges, and invited questions from the Board. Georgina Ripley (Principal Curator, Modern & Contemporary Design) gave a presentation on new insights into our fashion and textiles collection.

The Chair and Trustees extended their thanks for the presentations.

ITEM 1 – APOLOGIES

1.1 Apologies were received from Ann Allen and Beth McKillop.

**ITEM 2 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
2 OCTOBER 2024**

NMS (2024) 4th Mtg

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2024 were approved.

ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Matters arising from the last meeting were taken under the main agenda items.

ITEM 4 – DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

4.1 It was noted that there were no declarations of interests from Board members in relation to the substantive items on the agenda.

ITEM 5 – DIRECTOR’S REPORT TO TRUSTEES

NMS (2024) 29

5.1 The Director presented his report which had been circulated. Highlights included:

- The announcement of the acquisition of the Peebles Hoard gained extensive coverage across national and international media.
- *Game On* (29 June–3 November 2024) ended its run with a total of 82,426 tickets sold, 43% ahead of target.
- A cross-channel, 5-part film series produced to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the discovery of the Galloway Hoard, which has achieved 990,803 impressions to date.
- One of our best-loved displays, the Lewis chess pieces, has moved to a brand-new display case in Kingdom of the Scots.
- The *Monkeys! A Primate Story* international exhibition tour (in partnership with Nomad) has now come to an end after seven venues. Overall, this exhibition has been visited by 594,541 visitors whilst on its international tour.
- Maths Week Scotland significantly surpassed last year’s event numbers. This year featured over 125 events and activities for the public, reflecting a remarkable year-on-year growth of 51%.

5.2 The Director gave a verbal update on:

- Recent meetings with Scottish Government and politicians.
- The launch of National Museums Scotland’s Annual Review 2024 at the Annual Open evening on 20 November, which was very well attended and featured a display and presentation on the Galloway Hoard.
- The announcement of the Galloway Hoard tour to Australia with significant press coverage.

ITEM 6 – FINANCIAL REPORT

NMS (2024) 30

6.1 Keith Pentland presented the report which had been circulated and confirmed it represented the overall position for the period to 31 October 2024.

6.2 The Board noted:

- Current forecast is break even by the end of the financial year.
- Income from donations at the National War Museum has been lower than anticipated and therefore annual income has been forecast downwards.
- NMS Enterprises Ltd trading performance has been better than budgeted and therefore annual surplus has been forecast upwards.
- Voluntary Exit Scheme has been implemented and took effect from 31 October 2024.
- The 35 Hour week has been implemented and took effect from 1 August 2024.

ITEM 7 – COLLECTIONS & RESEARCH REPORT

NMS (2024) 31

7.1 Trustees noted the Collections & Research Report and SA highlighted the work being done in collaboration with the External Relations team to actively promote and celebrate expertise in the areas of biodiversity and sustainability.

ITEM 8 – FINANCIAL RESERVES

NMS (2024) 32

8.1 Keith Pentland presented the Summary of Reserves which had been circulated.

8.2 The Board noted the legislative frameworks underpinning the reserves policy and the associated operation of reserves.

ITEM 9 – REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

(i) People & Remuneration Committee

9.1 The Chair noted that the draft minutes of the People & Remuneration Committee meeting held on 28 October had been circulated.

(ii) Finance Committee

9.2 The Chair noted that the draft minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 5 November had been circulated.

(iii) Estates Committee

9.3 In Ann Allen's absence (Chair of Estates Committee), Ian Wall (Member of the Estates Committee) gave a verbal update of the key issues considered at the recent meeting held on 13 November. The completion of the quinquennial report was noted.

(iv) National Museums Scotland Enterprises Ltd Board

9.4 Jandy Stevenson (Chair of the NMSE Ltd Board) gave a verbal update that the internal audit report has been completed and an NMSE strategy day is planned.

(v) Collections Development Committee

9.5 In Beth McKillop's absence (Chair of Collections Development Committee) Sam Alberti (Member of the Collections Development Committee) gave a verbal update on actions since the last meeting.

(vi) Audit & Risk Committee

9.6 Jandy Stevenson (Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee) confirmed that the internal audit reports for NMSE and Sustainability are both complete and will be submitted to the next committee meeting on 10 December.

ITEM 10 – FORWARD PROGRAMME OF BUSINESS

NMS (2024) 33

10.1 The Board noted the forward programme of business.

ITEM 11 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Manuel Fernandez-Gotz enquired about access to research collections due to current building works at National Museums Collections Centre and Sam Alberti, Director of Collections, will revert.

SA

ITEM 12 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

12.1 The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 5 February 2025 at the National Museum of Scotland.