



Tom Minogue  
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Our Reference: 202100224788

Your Reference: The Right Hon. Angus Robertson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs & Culture, Referred to you by Police Scotland

13 August 2021

Dear Mr Minogue,

Many thanks for your letter of the 13<sup>th</sup> July to Angus Robertson, MSP Cabinet Secretary for The Constitution, External Affairs And Culture. I have been asked to reply on behalf of Jenny Gilruth MSP as Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development.

I note your comments regarding the appalling act of vandalism to a Children's Memorial in Dumferline. May I suggest that you write to Ash Denham, Minister for Community Safety for comments regarding anti-social behaviour related matters.

With regard to the issue of repatriation and restitution of artefacts from Scotland's museums collections, this has become increasingly prominent due to the Black Lives Matter movement. As you will be aware, many collections have been acquired over the years under different set of circumstances and this can understandably lead the public enquiring about the legitimacy of those objects acquired and cared for in these collections. **We recognise in Scotland that there is a growing public conversation about repatriation and historic collection methods.**

**Given that this issue is of increasing significance for the sector, museums are working hard to follow best practice and ensure that decisions in respect of requests for the return of objects of cultural significance from a museum's collection conform to international standards. The Scottish Government supports Scottish museums efforts to respond to these important and consequential matters in a transparent and responsible way.**

Yours sincerely,

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)



Isabelle Jacobsen

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