



NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 FEBRUARY 2018 AT 9.30AM IN ROOM T, PORTCULLIS HOUSE (PI 02)

- Members present: Alison McGovern (Chair)
Ann Clwyd
Nic Dakin
Mr Jonathan Djanogly
Simon Hoare
Tom Tugendhat
Hywel Williams
- Apologies: Mr David Lammy, Hannah Bardell, Mr Edward Vaizey.
- In attendance: Malcom Hay, Curator of Works of Art
Emma Gormley, Deputy Curator
James Ford, Assistant Curator
Sileas Wood, Assistant Curator
Melanie Unwin, Project Manager, Vote100 project
Camilla Aitken, Media Officer

1) Informal Note [INF 01]

The Committee **agreed** the informal notes of the meeting on 14 December 2017.

Matters arising

Frank Doran

The Committee held a minute's silence for the late former Chair of the Committee, Frank Doran.

Melanie Unwin, Project Manager for the Vote100 project, spoke on a proposal to mark Mr Doran's contribution to art in Parliament in the form of a plaque on each side of the base of the Henry Moore sculpture. The Parliamentary Art Collection had become more diverse and inclusive in the subjects represented through Mr Doran's efforts. Ms Unwin would bring the inscription proposed for the plaque to a future meeting.

The Chair reminded Members that the portrait of Dame Joan Ruddock, Mr Doran's partner, would be unveiled that evening at an event in the Speaker's House and encouraged attendance.

New Committee and Curatorial staff

The Committee was updated on changes to Committee and Curatorial staff.

Recent acquisition of a political cartoon



The Committee was shown the cartoon of the statue of Margaret Thatcher that it had agreed to bid for at auction by correspondence on 8 February for £200 (£255.20 including premium).

The responses received from Members were as follows:

<i>In favour</i>	<i>Against</i>
<i>Ann Clwyd</i> <i>Mr David Lammy</i> <i>Tom Tugendhat</i> <i>Hywel Williams</i>	<i>Simon Hoare</i>

2) Meeting arrangements

The Committee discussed future meeting arrangements.

The Chair noted that Nadhim Zahawi MP had resigned from the Committee because of other commitments. A Member suggested that meetings should be held alternately on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings each month.

Decision

The Committee **agreed** to meet alternately on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings each month from April.

3) Financial statement [WOA 04]

Malcolm Hay, Curator, briefed the Committee.

Mr Hay reported that the financial statement differed to the version before the Committee because of the recent purchase of the Margaret Thatcher cartoon and because of a projected underspend of circa £16,000 on the Race Relations Acts project in year due to the illness of the Artist in Residence. These changes would be reflected in the next financial statement.

A Member asked if the Committee was responsible for covering the costs of exhibitions and if whether the Curator's Office had considered seeking external sponsors to fund them. Mr Hay said that the costs were covered by his office's budget. Ms Unwin said that allowing external sponsorship of exhibitions was not House policy.

A Member asked if it was common practice for the Committee to make decisions on potential acquisitions by correspondence. The Chair said that this was done only in cases when the cost of the item was relatively low and when a swift decision was needed.

Decision

The Committee **agreed** to note the financial statement.



4) Activity and decisions since March 2017 [WOA 05]

Malcolm Hay, Curator, and Emma Gormley, Deputy Curator, briefed the Committee.

Ms Gormley reported that the Pioneers display in Portcullis House had been relocated to the Admission Order Office Corridor. There had been some damage done to the statue of Oliver Cromwell near the Members' Tea Room as a result of it being turned round on its plinth. Ms Gormley said that she would be happy to discuss the points raised in the paper in more detail with any Members who required more information.

A Member asked whether the environmental conditions of the Palace affected the artworks on display and if CCTV was in use to prevent damage to items in the collection. Mr Hay said that his team took great care to ensure that artworks were only displayed in suitable conditions. Ms Unwin said CCTV was installed in some areas of the Palace.

Decision

The Committee **agreed** to note the activity and decisions taken in the absence of a Committee since March 2017.

5) Race Relations Residency: First Waves

Emma Gormley, Deputy Curator, briefed the Committee.

Ms Gormley said the residency had been advertised externally and a number of candidates had been interviewed, after which Scarlet Crawford had been selected. Ms Crawford would be invited to a future meeting to discuss her work. The Curator's Office had identified and contacted a number of partner organisations to collaborate with on the project. A partner event would be held that day in the IPU Room and Members were encouraged to attend. There had been feedback that the £1,500 budget offered to partners to cover expenses relating to the project was insufficient so an additional contingency budget was proposed.

A Member said that they were excited by the project but delays meant it would only be completed after the anniversary of the Race Relations Act had passed. Ms Gormley said that a press release had been issued and her office were working with regional media outlets to celebrate and promote the campaign. The outcome would be an exhibition in Westminster Hall in 2019 and it would give Parliament an opportunity to commemorate the anniversary.

Decision

The Committee **agreed** the 6 regional partners and to commit a contingency from the 2018/19 budget to cover transport costs for participants to regional events.

6) Westminster Hall exhibition proposal: House of Doors [WOA 06]

Emma Gormley, Deputy Curator, and Kristina Claxton-Bonnington, artist, briefed the Committee.

Ms Gormley said that the proposal complemented the work of the Vote 100 Project.



A Member asked what the costs associated with the exhibition would be and how long the exhibition would be held for. Ms Gormley said that the exhibition would run from Open House Weekend in September to Parliament Week 2018 in November. Work would need to be done to look at the practicalities of hosting the exhibition before the costs could be calculated. Mr Hay said that the cost of handling and moving the works, if modest, would come from the budget of the Curator's Office. Ms Gormley said that she would brief the Committee on the projected costs of the project at a future meeting.

A Member asked what explanatory information would accompany the exhibition. Ms Claxton-Bonnington said that material had already been developed when the work was exhibited at UCL and this could be updated to be specific to the display in Parliament. The Parliamentary Outreach Team were keen to produce a booklet to accompany the exhibition and were considering other ideas such as a guided walk in collaboration with UCL.

A Member asked if retail opportunities had been considered. Ms Claxton-Bonnington said that postcards of the exhibition had been produced for sale at UCL. The Curators Office would contact the Retail Team to see if postcards could be sold to accompany the exhibition.

A Member asked if there would be an educational programme linked to the exhibition. Ms Gormley said that her office had been in touch with the Outreach Team and looked at the possibility of running regional workshops and other outreach work around the UK. The Committee would receive an update once further work on this had been undertaken.

Decision

The Committee **agreed** to support the application for the exhibition to be held in Westminster Hall.

7) Presentation of a portrait of Constance Markievicz [WOA 09]

Melanie Unwin, briefed the Committee.

Ms Unwin said that there were few painted portraits depicting Constance Markievicz and only a black and white photograph, bought for temporary exhibition purposes in the Parliament Art Collection. The presentation of this photographic reproduction of the portrait would take place on the 28 February.

A Member asked whether more information on Markievicz's importance in the history of Parliament could be included in the display next to the Admission Order Office. The Member also asked if any progress had been made on increasing representation of Daniel O'Connell in the Collection. Ms Unwin said that the curators were already looking at adding more information to the display and that they were aware of the lack of representation of Daniel O'Connell. Ms Gormley said that there were very few items suitable for the collection that had come up for sale but it was something they would continue to look into and discuss with colleagues in the Irish Parliament.



Decision

The Committee **noted** the presentation event and the proposed siting of the work in Portcullis House.

8) Updates, acquisitions and loans

Emma Gormley, Deputy Curator Briefed the Committee.

Loan request: portrait of Tony Benn by Andrew Tift (WOA 4761)

A Member asked how long works from the Collection were typically loaned for. Ms Gormley said that loans were for no longer than six months. The Chair said that few loan requests were received and that the Committee should support such requests to widen access to the collection.

Decision

The Committee **approved** the outward loan of the portrait.

Loan request: portrait of Diane Abbott MP by Stuart Pearson Wright (WOA 6270)

A Member asked if Ms Abbott's views had been sought. The Chair said that Ms Abbott should be informed as a courtesy.

Decision

The Committee **approved** the outward loan of the portrait.

Conservation of the statue of 2nd Viscount Falkland by John Bell [WOA 010]

Sileas Wood, Assistant Curator, briefed the Committee.

Ms Wood said the decision had been taken not to return the original sword to the statue as any further damage would be irreparable.

A Member said that it was the second time the Committee had been asked to sanction repairs on the statue and asked what could be done to prevent further damage. Dispelling a myth that the sword had once been broken by suffragettes could help to prevent further damage. Ms Gormley said that a training programme had been created for education guides as the damage had been done by a visitor on one of those visits.

A Member asked if the statue's missing spur would also be replaced. Another Member asked if the original sword would ever be put back in place. Ms Unwin said that she had looked at the possibility of replacing the spur and it would be something to consider once the sword was in place. An anecdote that the sword had once been broken by suffragettes had aroused public curiosity and may have led to the damage. Dispelling this story could help to prevent damage to the sword in future.



A Member asked if the replica sword would be an exact copy of the original or if it would deliberately be made to look different. Ms Wood said that the reproduction was as close to the original as possible and that information would be published online to make the public aware of this.

Decision

The Committee **noted** the historic and recent damage to the artwork and the conservation plan and preventative measures taken.

9) Potential acquisition: The Rights of Women or the Effects of female enfranchisement' by George Cruikshank [WOA 011]

Sileas Wood, Assistant Curator, briefed the Committee.

Ms Wood said that the print would complement works by Cruikshank that were already in the collection.

Decision

The Committee **agreed** to acquire the etching for the Parliamentary Art Collection.

10) Forward programme for Glass Wall exhibitions in Portcullis House Atrium

Josiah Wedgwood MP and the History of Parliament Project [WOA 07]

James Ford, Assistant Curator, briefed the Committee.

Decision

The Committee **agreed** to a temporary display on the Glass Wall, Portcullis House, to mark the 75th anniversary of the death of the History of Parliament project's founder, Josiah Wedgwood MP, and the 80th anniversary of the completion of the first History of Parliament publication.

Thomas Fowell Buxton [WOA 08]

Sileas Wood, Assistant Curator, briefed the Committee.

Ms Wood said that the display would also look at Buxton's role in the abolition of the slave trade. The Chair said that care should be taken to ensure the exhibition should reflect as much as possible the contribution of contemporary black campaigners against the slave trade. Ms Wood said that her team would ensure that the graphic panels would reflect this.

Decision

The Committee **agreed** to a Portcullis House Glass Wall exhibition to mark the 200th anniversary of Thomas Fowell Buxton entering Parliament.



I1) Any other business

A Member asked if all of the works in the Parliamentary Art Collection were on display. Mr Hay said that about eighty per cent of the Collection was on display and that some pieces were kept in store but were available for display in Members' offices. The Chair said that tours of the art stores could be arranged for Members by the Curator's Office.

I2) Date and time of the next meeting

The Committee will next meet on Wednesday 21 March at 9.30am.