

From: Freedom of Information Requests

Sent: 03 July 2025 09:42

To:

Subject: FOI Response -

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 16 June 2025 for information about inclusivity in museums. Please find below City of Doncaster Council's responses to the questions you have raised.

1. What work has been carried out to "decolonise" collections: addressing colonial legacies, racism, and to make the museum more racially inclusive. For example, what labelling has been added to contextualise potentially harmful narratives about slavery etc.

Response: Discussions with local community members took place in 2024 to explore how Culture Services in City of Doncaster Council, responsible for our 3 museums, can make our displays more inclusive. Officers listen to and gather advice from our Community Advisory Panel to shape changes. Changes will be made to text panels, and the Service has worked with community groups to put displays together about British Asians in Doncaster. The Service is planning a research project to examine Doncaster's role in the empire and people of colour working in key industries in Doncaster.

2. What has been removed from display?

Response: No artefacts or items have been removed from display.

3. Can you please provide any interval guidance / manuals provided to staff to assist them with this work.

Response: Culture Services does not use a manual; however, the team do refer to guidance available from the Museums' Association.

4. What work has been carried out to make collections, events and education work to make it more inclusive for the LGBTQ+ community? Tours, new displays, new labels?

Response: Some objects have been relabelled, and Culture Services has been holding a research project to explore LGBTQ+ histories in Doncaster this year. An exhibition about this will be launched later in the year. Officers work with artists who identify as from the LGBTQ+ community, and regularly have displays of children's books by authors from the LGBTQ+ community and exploring LGBTQ+ themes and topics in children's libraries. The Moving Museum regularly attends Doncaster Pride each year to help remove barriers of access to collections for members of the LGBTQ+ community. In 2024 the theme of the Moving Museum was Championing Change which explored themes such as the changing role of women, climate change, LGBTQ+ communities, and technological change. As part of the wider work of City of Doncaster Council, Culture Services promotes the Doncaster Young Persons' Guide to Pride, launched at Doncaster Pride in August 2024. This resource was developed by our LGBTQ representatives, Youth Council Members and other young people who identify as LGBTQ+ in Doncaster.

5. Can you please provide any interval guidance/manuals provided to staff to assist them with this work

Response: Culture Services does not use a manual; however, the team do refer to guidance available from the Museums' Association.

6. Could you please provide details of formal approaches for the return of cultural artefacts, and for all requests for the repatriation of cultural artefacts. For example, for the return of Aboriginal material. Can you break this down by the date of the first approach, with details of the objects in question, the parties requesting them, and the status of discussions/negotiations at present.

Response: Culture Services has not received any requests for the repatriation of objects.

7. In relation to any Council owned/funded/overseen venues: for arts, music, or other cultural activities: What has been done to ensure racial and LGBT inclusion? What policies are in place with regard to referencing the use of the shape to certain groups or those with certain political views?

Response: Council venues and staff are trained and aware of their responsibilities with regard to the Equalities Act and Due Regard. This extends to officer responsibilities when procuring services which are delivered at venues.

Cultural programmers in Doncaster, within the Culture Partnership, have specifically selected the LGBTQIA+ community as a priority group for their programme. This includes, for example, workshops for creative writing, and the development of a new art installation. City of Doncaster Council actively supports events such as Doncaster Pride and provides opportunities for LGBTQ+ performers through various programmes of activity.

The Council has also created resources like the Doncaster Young Person's Guide to Pride, providing information and support for LGBTQ+ young people.

The Council has a dedicated framework that outlines its commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and how it integrates these principles across all its services and activities.

Information about Doncaster's Inclusion and Fairness Forum, which City of Doncaster Council is a key partner within, can be found here: [Doncaster Fairness & Wellbeing Commission - Team Doncaster](#) and [Inclusion & Fairness Forum - Team Doncaster](#)

I hope that this information is useful to you.

The City of Doncaster Council estimates that it has cost £49 to respond to this request for information.

Reviewing any decisions made:

If you are not happy with this reply you can ask us to review our response. To do this write to us within 40 working days of receiving your response at the address below or email FOIAppeals@doncaster.gov.uk

If you do not agree with the review decision you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision about our compliance or otherwise with the Freedom of Information legislation. Contact details for the ICO are: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. www.ico.org.uk Telephone 0303 123 1113.

Yours faithfully,

Ellen Dook
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