

For the last year up to date, but inclusive of information and documents from work which may have begun before this period and is still being pursued by the council. (For example, a project to identify monument may have begun in 2020, but the list compiled from this project may still be used by the council now)

- 1) Could you please provide any list or review/research/report/ survey of locations (streets/buildings/parks), or public art (such as statues), plaques, commemorations, graves, memorials that the council has produced in relation to slavery, colonialism, empire/British Empire, racism, white supremacy, Black Lives Matter, decolonising, racial justice.

In question form: "What in the built environment has the organisation, or a group working on its behalf, identified as being linked to racism, slavery, colonialism: that is, contested history?"

A full list of public art commissioned/owned by the council, plus details of those commissioned independently of the council attached.

We reviewed the origin and focus of all council owned/directly commissioned works in 2021 in response to the Black Lives Matter campaign. No links to racism, slavery, colonialism were found in this review.

- 2) Could you please provide details of what being done to highlight, reinterpret, redisplay, or rename aspects of the environment in the council area identifying in part 1 of this request

In question form: "What work (such as adding interpretation, or information boards, or plaques close to contested monuments) has been undertaken by the council to address these legacies?"

As above, we do not consider the council owned/directly commissioned works require reinterpretation, redisplay of renaming.

We do however keep this under review and invest in the training of our culture team, including courses such as 'decolonisation and anti-racism training' and keep up to date with sector guidance, to ensure that we are adhering to best practise.

- 3) If applicable, can you please provide information on what is being done to address issues of slavery, colonialism, empire/British Empire, racism, white supremacy, Black Lives Matter, decolonising, racial justice in council museums? For example, what information boards have been added, what has been taken off display or put on display, what new plaques have been erected?

Across both our museum and archive collections we are addressing the areas outlined in the question in a number of ways:

1. Collections review and reinterpretation

Working with community volunteers we are constantly reviewing our collections with this field in mind, most recently we reviewed our photographic archive to identify in this case images from Wigan's past with racially offensive content with the purpose of updating captions to reflect the content more sensitively, this following the guidance in professional literature such as: 'Towards protocols for describing racially offensive language in UK public archives' by Alicia Chilcott 2019.

We also included the following notification on our homepage '*A small minority of images on our site contain offensive content. Archives: Wigan & Leigh have provided captions to contextualise these images. If you discover any content you deem offensive, [please get in touch.](#)*'

In terms of our museum collection, we have a substantial world cultures collection and are at the beginning stages of looking at how we de-colonialise the language not only for pieces we could put on display but the collection overall to ensure objects are catalogued sensitivity and appropriately again with input from wider communities and in response to sector guidance.

2. Exhibition/display

As part of a renewed exhibition space opened at Leigh Town Hall in June 2021, we sought to highlight the stories of people of colour from the borough in the permanent exhibition, this including but not limited to: James Jarvis Wiggins (herbalist) and Lemm Sissay (writer).

Within the museum we constantly look to address these issues within the exhibition programme, an example of this a protest exhibition that referenced the Black Lives Matter movement including placards from local people who attended the Manchester protests (subsequently brought into our collection) using this as a beginning point for a wider conversation.

3. Collecting

In our future collecting, as stated in our collection development policy, we are trying to expand on the type of objects and communities which are represented in our collection and reaching out to underrepresented groups to help us with this, which is an ongoing piece of work.

We are also actively developing our oral history collection, this including in September 2022 an interview with a member of the Windrush generation who came over to work in a hospital in the borough from the West Indies, in which she describes the racism she experienced when she arrived.

4. Promotion

We use our publications such as Past Forward to address/discuss the issues listed and there have been numerous articles about the history of racism browsable here: [Past Forward and Publications \(wigan.gov.uk\)](#)

- 4) The same as for part 3, but can you provide information on how council libraries have addressed these issues. For example, have any books been specifically banned or removed from the library? Has a system of trigger warnings been established for sensitive topics?

This can be broad, I do not need a full check of all items in the library; please do not get bogged won in this if it is likely to go over the limit)

Libraries stock is purchased through Supplier Selection. As a library supplier, it is not their job to censor books and their core range is created from lots of national, regional and local publishers. Whilst we do have supplier selection and use a specification to indicate what sort of material we wish to include or exclude, the supplier advised they would not select racist material for us, and this wouldn't be added to their core range. However, they try to keep our range as broad as possible and books about some of these topics will appear if publishers have sent details and they are suitable for public libraries in the UK. Aside from this core range, any book that has had its ISBN registered on Nielsen BookData can be found on our suppliers website in the non-core and any library can order these.

Many of the subjects are key topics for libraries and we do create regular displays about issues including Black History Month and Windrush Day amongst others.

We do not have any stock management processes that specify we would remove or ban these type of books.

- 5) For the above work to address contested history, can you please provide information any grants received by the council to pursue this work, or any payments or grants made by the council to pursue this work (for example, to a local anti-racism group tasked with identifying contested history)

Where possible the council are looking to undertake the work outlined above through existing budgets as it is part of our core work linked to our collections. We are actively looking within future funding bids at expanding our contemporary collecting to expand representation within our collections.

- 6) Can you provide information on any schools in the council area that have applied to change their name in relation to issues of contested history

None