

**BICENTENARY OF THE 1807 ACT TO ABOLISH THE SLAVE TRADE IN THE
BRITISH EMPIRE
SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE WORKING GROUP – MEETING 3
NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF SCOTLAND, HM GENERAL REGISTER HOUSE,
EDINBURGH
TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2006, 10:00 – 12:00**

Present:

Alison Colvine, Scottish Executive (Chair)	Karen Piaskowski, Scottish Executive
Annabel Bath, Heritage Lottery Fund	Liz Brunjes, Heritage Lottery Fund
Asif Khan, Bristol City Council	Michelle Irvine, Scottish Executive
Beverley Casebow, National Library of Scotland	Robin Urquhart, National Archives of Scotland
Colin McAndrew, Learning and Teaching Scotland	Sheila Assante, City of Edinburgh Council
Debbie Jackson, National Trust for Scotland	Tim Andrew, Scottish Executive
Douglas Ellis, Scotland Office	Tristram Clarke, National Archives of Scotland
Emma-Jane McAdam, Scottish Museums Council	William Fox, Scottish Executive

Apologies:

Catherine Bisset, Scottish Executive	Nicola Kalinsky, National Galleries of Scotland
Harminder Berman, Glasgow City Council	Sitakumari, Heartstone
Helen Clark, City of Edinburgh Council	Stephen Allen, National Museums of Scotland
Lindsey Sanderson, ACTS	William Kilbride, Glasgow City Council

Copy:

Verna Chung, Department for Communities and Local Government

Item	Discussion	Action
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the third meeting of the Scottish Executive Working group on the Bicentenary of the Act to abolish the Slave Trade in the British Empire and extended thanks on behalf of the group to the National Archives of Scotland for hosting the meeting.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes from the previous meeting</p> <p>There were three errors in the previous meeting's minutes. Emma Jane McAdam was not on the list of attendees, the address for today's meeting was incorrect and Maureen Barrie was incorrectly registered as present. The minute has been amended. It was also noted that the documentary on Joseph Knight is not being developed by Kirsty Wark's production company as stated in the minutes.</p> <p>Actions</p> <p><u>Circulation of Cross Governmental Group Meeting Papers</u></p> <p>The previous Cross Government meeting minute was</p>	Secretariat

circulated to the group. The group asked if future minutes of could also be distributed.

Grid Updates

All grid updates were received.

Key contacts in National Archives of Scotland and National Library of Scotland

The Heritage Lottery Fund asked for key contacts for the National Archives of Scotland and the National Library of Scotland to assist members of the public with research projects. The details were forwarded to HLF and the contacts are listed below.

National Archives of Scotland

Anyone seeking guidance from the NAS on researching local histories of slavery and the slave trade in Scotland should contact the NAS Historical Search Room on 0131 535 1334, or enquiries@nas.gov.uk. Contact details for local archives in Scotland can be found on the SCAN website at <http://www.scan.org.uk/directory/contactdetails.htm>.

National Library of Scotland

Please contact Beverley Casebow on 0131 623 3841 or b.casebow@nls.uk

Media Activity during the Scottish Executive Pre-Election Purdah period

The purdah period will be during the month of April. There will be restrictions on Scottish Executive news releases and other forms of media activity including campaign websites such as One Scotland. The guidance for purdah 2007 has not issued yet. Ministers will still attend some events but there will be restrictions on Scottish Executive engagement with the media.

The group should take this into consideration when organising events. We should be in a position to update at the next meeting.

Comments on research paper

All the comments on the research paper have been passed on to the researchers.

Presentation from Asif Khan at next meeting

This was arranged and Asif will give a presentation under agenda item 4.

3.	<p>UK Government and Scottish Executive Update</p> <p><u>DCMS/DCLG Cross Government meeting</u> The chair updated the group on DCMS/DCLG Cross Government meeting held on 29 September.</p> <p>Key activities at UK level include -</p> <p>‘Understanding Slavery’ a joint initiative developed by the National Maritime Museum and the Department for Education and Skills providing on-line teaching resource launched in June 2006 (http://www.understandingslavery.com/) Extra money available from Heritage Lottery Fund for local commemorative initiatives (www.hlf.org.uk) Commemorative activities under consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o National Service of Commemoration at Westminster Abbey o Parliamentary Exhibition at the Houses of Parliament o Opening of William Wilberforce House Museum in Hull <p><u>Education/essay competition</u> DfES are running a competition which is a creative competition to include the arts, music and other media linked to Understanding Slavery. The group noted that there are several essay competitions already running in Scotland so other forms of engagement should be investigated.</p> <p><u>UK Parliament</u> Plans for an exhibition, and possibly an intern scheme for BME young people to develop the exhibition.</p> <p><u>Stamps</u> Royal Mail have said that they will produce a set of stamps highlighting the work of the broad range of abolitionists who had a hand in bringing about the end of the slave trade.</p> <p>Those likely to be included on the stamps are: Olaudah Equiano, Ignatius Sancho, Hannah More, William Wilberforce, Thomas Clarkson and Granville Sharp. The stamps are intended to be launched on the exact day of the bicentenary itself.</p>	
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	<p><u>Coin</u> Royal Mint are intending to produce a £2 coin to coincide. The coin will be produced as a commemorative item and will also enter general circulation. The design is still being finalised.</p> <p><u>Memorial 2007</u> Memorial 2007 are intending to produce a fitting memorial to the victims of the slave trade, and to celebrate African heritage more generally. A potential site has been identified within a park in central London.</p> <p><u>Work, enterprise and private sector engagement</u> Trevor Phillips has put forward a proposal to set up a legacy fund to provide bursaries to young people. The money would come from private sector organisations that profited from the Transatlantic slave trade. .</p> <p><u>BBC programming</u> The BBC are developing a season of programmes with key partners and are in regular contact with Whitehall Officials and Ministers. The chair has contacted the BBC, but is yet to hear back.</p> <p>The BBC is also developing a website for events in 2007. The plan is to invite local authority website managers to input event information through their 42 BBC radio station "Where I Live" network.</p> <p><u>Media Strategy</u> DCLG are currently preparing a media strategy for events in 2007. They will lead but work with Departmental Press Offices.</p> <p>National Day of Remembrance</p> <p>UK Government are planning to hold a National Day of Remembrance in 2007. The date has not been finalised. The two proposed dates are 25 March (the day the act was passed) and 23rd August (UNESCO International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its abolition).</p> <p>The Deputy Prime Minister is with officials shortly to decide on the date, funding and format of the National Day of Remembrance.</p>	
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	<p>Scottish Executive</p> <p>The Executive are keeping the Minister for Communities updated with plans for the Bicentenary, including the work of this group. He has agreed to host a modest event on the National Day of Remembrance. The chair asked for working group input in shaping the event.</p> <p>The group agreed that discussion of the National Day of Remembrance should be a major agenda item at the next meeting. Given the range of events in 2007, consideration also needs to be given to the overall programme. Given more detail on the National Day will have been decided by the next meeting, the group can discuss both these points at the next meeting.</p> <p>The chair encouraged members to invite Scottish Ministers to planned events in 2007. It is important to send invitations to Ministers early.</p> <p>Group members noted that 2007 was also the Tricentenary of the Act of Union. It was suggested, where possible that events should consider both anniversaries.</p> <p>The next Cross Government group meeting will be held on 29 November. The chair will update the group at the next meeting.</p> <p><u>One Scotland website</u></p> <p>The chair proposed a dedicated section on the One Scotland website to the Bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade. This could feature meeting minutes, the planning grid, the research (when completed) and timeline of events throughout 2007.</p> <p>The chair wanted to develop this section of the website before 2007 in order to show planned events and to avoid any possible restriction on media activity due to the election. The group agreed this was a good idea and the secretariat will start work on developing the website.</p>	<p>Secretariat</p> <p>Secretariat</p>
4.	<p>Presentation – Asif Khan, Bristol City Council</p> <p>Asif, reported on the preparations of Bristol City Council (BCC) for the bicentenary.</p>	

	<p>In Bristol the plans have been underpinned by the need to involve communities, focus on young people and education and avoid any celebratory tone. It is also felt that it should be marked by efforts make long term improvements in the lives of BME populations.</p> <p>BCC have established a steering group to consider proposals, allocate funding, and identify areas for further focus. They are developing a programme for the year. In addition to this there are proposed programmes by Bristol Churches and local Universities.</p> <p>Other initiatives and dates confirmed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An invite to Nelson Mandela from the Lord Mayor to take part in a 'Freedom Festival'. ▪ The Windle Trust adapting their African post-grad scholarship to tie in with Abolition 200. ▪ The HLF providing grants for the exhibition 'Breaking the Chains', the Bristol Black Archive Partnership and Adisa/Teach One, Each One Ghana Project. ▪ Supporting a programme of events for Fairtrade Fortnight. ▪ Broadening the national scope of the Great Reading Adventure (Small Island by Andrea Levy) to include Hill, Liverpool and Glasgow. <p>The chair thanked Asif for this contribution and agreed to remain in touch.</p>	
5.	<p>Grid updates (please see attached)</p> <p>Each group member provided updates on work underway for the planning grid. Written responses to be sent to Tim Andrew by 21 November 2006. Please see revised grid for entries.</p>	<p>Group members and secretariat</p>
6.	<p>How to involve community groups in planning</p> <p>We carried over an item from the last meeting about the importance of involving community groups in planning events. It was noted that UK Government Ministers (Phil Woolas and Meg Munn) will be visiting communities with significant minority ethnic populations to promote the bicentenary and as a part of wider race equality strategy.</p> <p>The National Trust for Scotland West Region shared how they used local education officers in areas such as Pollok to bring together local history groups and</p>	

	<p>minority ethnic groups.</p> <p>The HLF reminded the group that community involvement, either the opportunity to participate in an event, or to be a volunteer, was an essential element in a successful bid for funding. Please see link below to HLF guidance on involving community groups in planning events. http://www.hlf.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/F6B05389-9FF5-4565-800A-73439A7ABFDF/1314/ThinkingAboutBME.pdf</p>	
7.	<p>Research update and plans for dissemination</p> <p><u>Research update</u> The Scottish Executive are in the process of terminating the research contract for the Historical Review of Scotland's involvement in the Slave Trade as they were unable to agree with the contractors about a number of aspects of the document. The contract was terminated because areas for work were not completed as specified, meaning that style and language made it inaccessible to a non specialist audience. In the Executive's view the contractors have not met the research specification and therefore breached their contract with Scottish Ministers.</p> <p>The Chair formally thanked Iain Whyte and Eric Graham for the work they have produced so far. The work submitted to date will be useful in forming the basis of the final document. The contractors will be credited for their work in the final report.</p> <p>The Executive still hope to publish by the beginning of next year. To complete the work some further research and rewriting will be necessary. Ways of finishing the project are being explored and we will provide an update at the next meeting.</p> <p><u>Dissemination</u> The chair asked the group to how to disseminate the final report. Both hard copies and web based versions will be produced.</p> <p>The research report will be available on the One Scotland website and links can be made to the websites of group members. It was suggested that links are made to Wikipedia and google search engines.</p>	

	<p>In terms of the dissemination of hard copies, the following suggestions were made;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local Authorities could assist with dissemination ▪ Copies should be provided to the National institutions (i.e. Library, Galleries and Museum) ▪ LTS said that the research could work well in conjunction with other resources currently being developed and agreed to help disseminate to schools. ▪ The National Trust for Scotland said that copies of the report could be made available in their properties. <p>The chair asked if group members could e-mail the numbers of copies they require to the secretariat, so the print run can be planned. The secretariat will also formulate a dissemination plan.</p> <p><u>Translation of report</u> It was recommended that copies were made available in Gaelic and there will be further provision to translate into community languages in request.</p>	Group members/Secretariat
8.	<p>AOB</p> <p>The chair circulated a letter from Leo Thomas to the First Minister on Scottish Executive plans for the Bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade.</p>	
9.	<p>Next meeting</p> <p>The next meeting be held on Thursday 25 January 2007 from 14:00 – 16:00 in St Andrew’s House, Edinburgh, 25 January from 14:00-16:00. Meeting papers will be sent out in advance</p>	

Scottish Executive Equality Unit
November 2006