

- 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 or 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/galleries?

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?

Could you please provide details of any books which have been taken from public display and perhaps placed at the desk, or in a reserve stack, because they may be offensive or inappropriate?

(This can be broad, I do not need a full check of all items in the library)

We review our collection to ensure that it is representative of our communities, including consideration of protected characteristics.

Libraries stock/collections are purchased through Supplier Selection process.

Our stock supplier's core range is created from lots of national, regional and local publishers and is as broad as possible.

Aside from this core range, any book that has had its ISBN registered on Nielsen Book Data can be found on our supplier's website in the non-core and any library can order these.

We do not have any stock management processes that specify we would remove or censor any type of literature.

- 5) For any council run or supported **events** in the area, how have these events been more inclusive or a greater focus on diversity? For example, Bonfire nights or Christmas lights events

With most of our events we do a public call out and try to engage with all areas of our community and are fully inclusive. For programmes such as Light Night, we actively programme with the intention of working with artists who are representative of our communities.

- 6) For any schools affiliated with the council, could you provide details on how the curriculum has been diversified?

Council provide any details or advice to school provided by the council on design the curriculum

All maintained schools are expected to follow the national curriculum. The LA does not prescribe resources for the curriculum as this is a decision for school leaders and the local Governing Body. We support this by building capacity across the education system so there is a willing, skilled and ambitious workforce to lead a sector-led model of school improvement.