Dear Fiona,

I refer to the legislative consent memorandum, which the Scottish Government has lodged in relation to the Holocaust (Return of Cultural Objects) (Amendment) Bill.

As you will be aware, the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee has been designated as the lead committee on the legislative consent memorandum for this Bill.

The Committee understands that when its predecessor Committee, the Education, Lifelong Learning and Culture Committee, considered the Holocaust (Return of Cultural Objects) Bill in Session 3, no claims had arisen in respect of the national collections designated in the Act and one case had arisen otherwise in Scotland (in relation to a non-designated collection, i.e. the Burrell Collection).

The Committee has therefore agreed to write to you to seek clarification on the number of claims that have been raised in Scotland seeking the return of cultural objects since the Holocaust (Return of Cultural Objects) Act 2009 came into force.
It would be helpful if your response included a break-down of the following information—

(i) Number of claims that are currently under investigation in Scotland;

(ii) Number of claims where an investigation has been concluded in Scotland;

(iii) Of the claims listed above in (i) and (ii), the number that have arisen in respect of collections held by the national institutions designated in the Act;

(iv) Of the claims listed above in (i) and (ii), the number that have arisen in respect of collections other than those held by the national institutions designated in the Act, such as the Burrell Collection;

(v) Outcome of the claims above to date.

As the Committee is working to a tight procedural deadline, we intend to consider the LCM at our meeting on 19 April 2018. In order for the Committee to be able to consider the requested information at this meeting, we ask to receive your response electronically by 5pm on Friday, 13 April 2018.

I would be grateful if your officials would liaise with the Committee’s clerking team with any queries that may arise from this request using the contact details provided above.

Yours sincerely,

Joan McAlpine MSP
Convener
Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee