



Department
for Culture,
Media & Sport

Baroness Twycross
Minister for Museums, Heritage and Gambling
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8 December 2025

The Rt Hon Sir Alan Campbell MP
Lord President of the Council and
Leader of the House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

INT2025/11999/DC

Dear Sir Alan,

I am writing with regard to your letter, dated 18 November, to the Rt Hon Lisa Nandy MP, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport regarding the Business Questions on Thursday 13 November. I am replying as the Minister responsible for Covid Commemoration.

As you will know, the UK government published its response to the UK Commission on Covid Commemoration's report on that date. I would like to thank you for mentioning the publication of the government response in your Business Questions opening remarks. Members of the COVID-19 Bereaved Family groups were present in Parliament on that day and it meant a lot to them to hear the loss of their loved ones remembered in the House of Commons.

Regarding the matter raised by James Asser MP (Official Report, Column 326), I will deposit the [list](#) and [map](#) of COVID-19 memorials on the new GOV.UK Covid Commemoration webpages in the Libraries of both Houses so that Members of both Houses can access this information. I will also urge all honourable Members to make sure any memorials from their constituency are included.

In terms of the matter raised by Gareth Snell MP (Official Report, Column 317), the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport does not plan to hold a statement on the government response to the UK Commission on Covid Commemoration's report. The [government response](#) was laid as a Command Paper on Thursday 13 November and was accompanied by a [Written Ministerial Statement](#) from the Secretary of State. On the day of publication, the Secretary of State wrote to all the Bereaved Family groups and I hosted them in Parliament. I also responded to a Private Notice Question in the House of Lords.

As published in the government response, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport is not creating an open biddable funding pot for new memorials, but will be investing in a programme with Forestry England to create new COVID-19 reflective spaces across the country's forests and with NHS Charities Together on a scheme to create new reflective gardens within the grounds of NHS sites. We are still at an early stage of developing this programme, including identifying the sites and locations. We will be taking into consideration where there are areas without an existing memorial location.



My officials have met with Gareth Snell MP and, to support his work in Stoke, they will share examples of other similar community memorials with him so that he can speak with the memorial custodians about their learnings on community co-creation, how their memorials were funded (for example through national lottery funding), and considerations they gave to long-term management.

I have copied this response to your letter to James Asser MP and Gareth Snell MP. I will deposit a copy of this letter in the Libraries of both Houses.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Baroness Twycross', written in a cursive style.

Baroness Twycross
Minister for Museums, Heritage and Gambling