

Museum resilience and recovery after Covid-19

The Spotlight 2022 survey provides evidence of Covid-19 related disruption to the work of museums. With restrictions on opening and challenges of workforce development and continuity through 2022, visitor numbers, learning activities and volunteer participation remain below pre-pandemic levels. The financial support given to the museum sector enabled it to survive. Recovery is underway but is not yet complete.

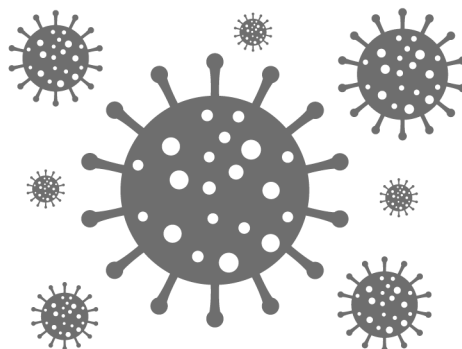
In 2022:

- Museum visitor numbers recovered to 69 per cent of pre-pandemic levels.
- Over one third of museums continue to experience a disruption to their normal operating pattern.
- Museum operating budgets were mostly subject to a below inflationary uplift or a reduction.
- There are 32 per cent fewer volunteers in the workforce than in 2019. University museums increased their volunteer numbers, and independent museums also maintained their volunteer base better than museums with other governance structures.
- There remains a challenge, not least through workforce capacity in museums, to attract school visits back again.

Museum visitor numbers (physical)

2019

(4,333,520)



2022

(3,011,763)



Full Research Report:
Chaplin E, Henderson J, Parkes P (2023).
Museum Spotlight Survey 2022.
Cardiff: Welsh Government, GSR report number 83/2023.
Available at:
<https://www.gov.wales/museum-spotlight-survey-2022>

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Analysis for Policy



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Museum opening post-Covid



Over **one third** of museums continue to experience **disruption** to their normal operating pattern

Volunteer numbers post-Covid



There are **32% fewer volunteers** in the museum workforce than in **2019**

RESPONDENTS' WORDS

"Staffing is a challenge, post-Covid, illnesses that persist. Recruiting staff, especially part-time/casual is challenging, and it is an experience to be felt across [place name]"

"2021/22 severely impacted by COVID-19, performance data across the board for the museum was poor"



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