

Dr Lisa O'Sullivan
Chair
Human Remains Subject Specialist Network
The Science Museum
Exhibition Road
London SW7 2DD



20 June 2008

Dear Lisa,

DCMS GUIDANCE FOR THE CARE OF HUMAN REMAINS IN MUSEUMS

Further to your recent correspondence with Mark Caldon about the definition of human remains in the *DCMS Guidance for the Care of Human Remains in Museums* and the Human Tissue Act 2004, DCMS acknowledges that the statement on page 9 of the *Guidance* about the treatment of hair and nails is incorrect.

In discussion with Hedley Swain, who chaired the drafting group, we have agreed that the first sentence of the second paragraph in the Glossary and Interpretations section on page 9 should read as follows:

"In line with the Human Tissue Act 2004, the definition includes hair and nails, taken post-mortem."

We will include a note to this effect on the Human Remains section of the DCMS website.

We trust that this will set the record straight and eliminate any further confusion on the matter.

I am copying this to Hedley Swain.

Hillary Bauer
Head of the Cultural Property Unit