

Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP
Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
100 Parliament Street
London
SW1A 2BQ

06 May 2021

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing to you in my capacity as Warden of Goldsmiths, University of London on behalf of the wider community of Goldsmiths staff, students, and alumni.

On 1 May 2021 we learned from widespread newspaper reporting that the Chair of Royal Museums, Sir Charles Dunstone, had decided following your decision to reappoint as a trustee Dr Aminul Hoque MBE, Lecturer in Educational Studies at Goldsmiths. The news of the decision not to reappoint Dr Hoque has been met with shock and alarm by our community.

At a time when the question of how we should address Britain's past is seldom out of the headlines, Britain's museums need trustees with expertise in engaging with the public around difficult issues connected to our shared culture and history. Our museums also know that they have to attract more diverse and younger audiences if they are to avoid becoming culturally irrelevant. As Museums Association director Sharon Heal recently said: "Museums need boards that reflect a diversity of views and trustees that represent our communities."^[1]

Dr Hoque has more than 25 years of voluntary and professional experience in the youth, community and voluntary sector. Over that time he has made a major contribution to national youth work policies and training programmes, for example developing a manual for

Without an adequate explanation this decision may well be seen as part of a pattern in