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BY E-MAIL

21 March 2008

Dear Madam

Further to the article in Thursday's Irish Times (20-03-2008) entitled 'Problems of museum storage flagged in 2006', the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland (IAI), would like to express its concern at the manner in which its public statement was presented.

Our clearly expressed support for the hard work and dedication of our colleagues working within the National Museum was completely overlooked.

The statement was not a critique of the museum, but rather of the failure to acknowledge the full extent of its needs and responsibilities, and ensure that it had the resources and support required to properly manage them. Despite the clear identification of the problems faced by the museum in previous reports over the last several years, it is only now, following on from the report by the Comptroller and Auditor General, that these issues are being widely aired.

A concerted initiative is needed to deal with collections policy and management and to build an appropriate level of capacity within the National Museum that reflects the requirements of legislation, and of the profession, now and in the future. The IAI will support our colleagues within the National Museum, in seeking such a remedy.

Yours sincerely

Teresa Bolger
Public Relations Officer