

Public statement from Hartwig Fischer in response to planned industrial action by the PCS Union on Friday 17 February

It is with great regret that I have taken the difficult decision to close the Museum today. This is in the interests of the safety and security of our visitors, staff and the collection and in direct response to the challenging staffing position we are in as a result of the strike action being taken by the PCS Union.

While I respect my colleagues' right to take this action, I am disappointed that the Museum is being made a focal point for a dispute about wider public sector terms and conditions which are beyond the Museum's control, and in such a damaging way.

In the current climate access to free visitor attractions has never been more important and I am very sorry for all those families who will now not be able to enjoy their visit to the Museum during the half term holidays.