

31 January 2020

Prof. Piotr Gliński

Minister of Culture and National Heritage  
ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 15/17  
00 - 071 Warsaw  
POLAND

Dear Minister,

#### THE POSITION OF A DIRECTOR OF THE POLIN MUSEUM

As Australians of Polish descent, who represent two community organisations that for 30 years have worked on fostering Polish-Jewish dialogue in Australia, we are proud that the Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Polin has gained wide acclaim and is a source of pride not only within Poland, but also world-wide. In its short existence, Polin was named The European Museum of the Year (2016) and received many other accolades.

However, we are increasingly concerned about the prolonged hiatus in permanent appointment to the position of a director of Polin. We are of the view that such delay is doing a great harm to the reputation of the Museum.

In our opinion, further delay in permanent appointment to the position of Polin's director has the potential to compromise the reputation of the Museum. We are aware that on 10 May 2019, the merit selection panel, comprising representatives of Polin's three founding organisations (Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, The Association of the Jewish Historical Institute, City of Warsaw), reached its verdict concerning the most suitable candidate for the position of Director of the Polin Museum. The panel's recommendation was forwarded for final approval to yourself, but approval has to date not been given and the position of Polin's director is being filled on a temporary basis.

We fully understand and respect that it is your right to make such appointment. However the perception that is gaining ground in world cultural circles, and beyond, is that non-appointment of a permanent director, eight months after the completion of the merit selection process, raises doubts about the integrity of the selection/appointment process.

We are seeking to voice the concerns of our respective organisations, that the delay in the appointment is doing great harm to the Polin Museum.

We sincerely hope that you will soon take relevant steps to address this increasingly embarrassing situation.

Yours sincerely,

Bernard Korbman  
Co-President  
Australian Society of Polish Jews and their Descendants

Dr Małgorzata Klatt  
President  
Australian Institute of Polish Affairs

cc. Lloyd Brodrick  
Ambassador of Australia to Poland.  
Michał Kotodziejski  
Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to Australia.