

Claims on Human Remains in the British Museum: 1995-2005

From 1995 until the passing of the Human Tissue Act into law, there were six approaches to the British Museum from organisations making claims against human remains in the Museum collection.

Date	Claimant Body	Material claimed
November 1997	Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre	Two cremation ash bundles from Tasmania
1997-98	Haida Nation band council	Human skull
November 1998	Te Papa/Museum of New Zealand	Maori Tattooed heads (<i>mokomoka</i>)
August 2001	Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre Repeat Request	Two cremation ash bundles from Tasmania
December 2001	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC – defunct Australian government agency)	Australian human remains
May 2002	Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre Repeat Request	Two cremation ash bundles from Tasmania

Since the relevant section 47 of the Human Tissue Act came into force in 2005, the Museum has received one approach which will be considered by Trustees pending receipt of a final independent report, in accordance with the Trustees' policy published on the website at

www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/corporate/guidance/BM_policy_on_human_remains.pdf

Date	Claimant Body	Material claimed
July 2005	Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre in association with the Australian government	Two cremation ash bundles from Tasmania

NB four of the seven claims listed above have been made by or with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, submitting repeat requests for the same material.

For further information on any of these claims please contact the Museum at collectionenquiries@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk