

Freedom of Information requests

2010

Reference number: 10-013

12 November 2010

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Dear,

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION – *Information relating to the number of art words held in the collections which have not been exhibited in the last 12 months, 5 years and 10 years, including approximate value.*

Thank you for your request for information. As Head of Knowledge and Information Management for Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales, I will be responsible for responding to your request for information.

I refer to your email of 19 October 2010, in which you asked for the following information:

A	<i>The number of art words in your collection which have not been exhibited in the last 12 months. Of these art works please provide a breakdown of approximate value (if sold) of each.</i>
B	<i>The number of art words in your collection which have not been exhibited in the last 5 years. Of these art works please provide a breakdown of approximate value (if sold) of each.</i>
C	<i>The number of art words in your collection which have not been exhibited in the last 10 Years. Of these art works please provide a breakdown of approximate value (if sold) of each.</i>
D	<i>The number if art works held in your collection which have never been exhibited since they became part of your collection. Of these art works please provide a breakdown of approximate value (if sold) of each.</i>

I have reviewed your request and on the 8th November 2010, I contacted you to discuss your discuss the your request. I explained that your request as it stood would result in the Museum not being able to provide you with any information because the information you were seeking is not held. An

explanation of this is provided in *Annex 1*. To assist you, I suggested you modify your request and you agreed to modify your request to the following:

1	The number of art works held by the Department of Art.
2	The number of art works currently on display within the Museum.
3	The number of art works on loan to other institutions.

I can confirm that the Department of Art holds 47,881* works of art within its collection of which 3,008 are on display within the Museum and 269 objects are on loan to other institutions.

* This total represents all the collections held by the Department of Art and includes paintings, sculpture, works on paper and applied art. Of this total, some 14,000 are paintings, sculpture and applied art which are potentially extended display but may include some damaged or unfinished study pieces, and the rest are works on paper, which cannot be shown for more than 4 months in 12 months, and are essentially a research collection accessed through the Museum's Department of Art study room.

Your request was considered according to the principles set out in the National Assembly's Code of Practice on Public Access to Information (third edition). The Code is published on the Internet at www.information.wales.gov.uk.

If you believe that I have not applied the Code of Practice on Public Access to Information correctly or have not followed the relevant laws, please contact me to request a first-stage review. If, after that, you are still not satisfied you may request a formal review by the Museum. When dealing with any concerns, we will follow the principles of the National Museum of Wales' Code of Practice on Complaints, which is available on the Internet at www.nationalmuseumwales.org/en/45/ or by post to:

Mr. Robin Gwyn
Director of Communications
National Museum Wales
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NP

Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales
Parc Cathays, Caerdydd CF10 3NP/Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NP
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E-bost: post@amgueddfacymru.ac.uk/E-mail: post@museumwales.ac.uk

Llywydd/President Paul Loveluck CBE JP Is-Llywydd/Vice President Elisabeth Elias MA DL
Trysorydd/Treasurer J. Peter W. Morgan M.Sc. FCA Cyfarwyddwr Cyffredinol/Director General David Anderson
Rhif elusen / Charity registration number: 525774
Rhif TAW / VAT registration number: GB 783 4541 10

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You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner.
Normally, however, you should pursue the matter through our internal
procedure before you complain to the Information Commissioner.
The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Head of Knowledge & Information Management

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Annex 1

I have set out this Annex the reasons why your initial request could not be provided. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000, this letter represents a Section 17(1) Refusal Notice for your original request.

In responding to your initial request for information, I will be referring to each element of your request separately.

Information relating to the number of art works which have not been exhibited in the last 12 months, 5 years and 10 years.

As I explained to you during our telephone conversation, the information we hold on our computer system relates to when a work of art is on display and this information has been built up over the past few years, a complete list of what has been on display over the past 10 years is not available in the system. To provide this information would constitute new information being created and the creation of new information is not required with in the Act.

Section 1 of FOIA places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at Section 1(1)(a) is to confirm or deny whether the information specified in the request is held. The second duty at Section 1(1)(b) is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held.

The information you requested does not exist and to provide an answer to your request would constitute the creation of new information. Therefore under section 1(1), the information can not be provided as the information you are requesting is not held.

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Value of the art works broken down.

The Museum does not value the items it holds other than for insurance purposes when we lend out to non-national museums or galleries. The Museum has no reason to hold valuations of items for any other reason as the collections are not insured. Therefore under section 1(1), the information can not be provided as the information you are requesting is not held.

Section 16 – Duty to provide advice and assistance

To assist you with your request, I contacted you on Monday 8th November 2010 to explain the reason why your information could be provided and I asked you if you would like to modify your request in a manner where information could be provided to you. You agreed and this information is provided within the covering letter.

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