

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Your request for information has now been considered and the Council's response to your questions is shown below.

You asked:

Under the section Heritage Assets in your annual statement of accounts, there is mention of arts and artefacts which are not usually referred to in the local list, or accounted for due to the cost of obtaining specific expert valuations.

I would like to receive the following:

- A) An itemised breakdown of the art and artefacts owned by the council- with necessary details such as artist/maker.**
- B) A list of art and artefacts acquired by the council since 2010 with an indication of whether it was a donation, or if purchased, please include the price paid.**
- C) A list of art and artefacts the council has sold since 2010, with the sold price and an indication of the purchaser i.e. overseas/domestic private collector, museum, etc.**

Under A, whilst I appreciate the exact values may be unknown as the cost of expert advice may be considered an unnecessary expense in the current climate, could you please include the insurance value of the items. If an individual breakdown isn't possible, an estimate of the insurance value of the whole collection would be acceptable.

Again, I am only interested in arts and artefacts, not buildings or other locations to be included in a local list.

Due to the vast size of the museum collection (over 1 million objects) it is not possible to supply a list of everything the council owns within the 18 hours allowed under the Act. This information is therefore exempt under section 12 of the Act and is a refusal notice.

We believe that the section 31 exemption (law enforcement) also applies to any information we may be able to provide within the 18 hour limit because freely publishing the exact value of collections of artwork could enable easy identification of the most valuable items or collections, which increases the risk of theft or vandalism to those items.

We appreciate that there is a public interest in the value of artworks held in public collections, we also have a duty to protect these artworks from theft and vandalism. Our Insurers however would not wish us to reveal values as this could compromise security. If our insurance companies feel we have acted detrimentally to the security of any artworks we hold, this could lead to increased premiums.

If disclosure leads to damage or theft of artworks, this would be counter to the interests of benefactors and potentially discourage future donations or loans from benefactors, and create potential for the withdrawal of items currently loaned to the service by individuals or organisations.

The Council must, in the public interest, maintain and care for the collection entrusted to it, including items donated or loaned to the council by private individuals or other organisations. Items could be damaged or stolen, or staff safety compromised, if information about the value and whereabouts of the collections are revealed.

We do however hold an 'insurance valuation by section' which provides group values for the whole collection divided into the main subject areas and we hope that this is helpful.

Insurance valuation:

Fine Art - £54,312,850.00
Decorative Art - £4,927,500.00
Natural Sciences - £4,620,500.00
Archaeology & Egyptology - £3,603,900.00
Social History - £955,000.00
Science & Technology - £6,801,500.00
Guildhall - £945,000.00

The Council has sold no items since 2010.

The legislation allows you to use the information supplied for your own personal use, or for journalistic purposes. If the information is a dataset (which does not relate to the environment), you may also use the information for commercial re-use under an [Open Government Licence](#).

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please write to:

Information Governance Manager
Information Governance Team
Leicester City Council
Bosworth House
Ground Floor
9-15 Princess Road West
Leicester
LE1 6TH
e-mail: info.requests@leicester.gov.uk

Your request for internal review should be submitted to the above address within 40 (forty) working days of receipt by you of this response. Any such request received after this time will only be considered at the Council's absolute discretion.

You may also seek independent advice from the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow SK9 5AF

Telephone: 01625 545 700

www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Please be aware that the Information Commissioner does not normally consider requests until the internal appeals process of the Council has been exhausted. You are therefore advised to appeal to the Information Governance Manager before contacting the Commissioner.