

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 001851
Date 9 January 2018

Art and Antiques

Request:

Under the Freedom of Information Act can you please provide me with the following information:

- 1) The number of art and antiques thefts from council museum and art galleries in 2016/17, 2015/16 and 2014/15. Broken down into:
 - works of art/ pictures - please name the piece of art and its estimated value and if it was recovered.
 - Sculptures - please name the piece of art and its estimated value and if it was recovered.
 - coins/medals
 - antique watches?
 - jewellery?

Can I have that broken down by year

[In response to question 1 above, I can confirm that we have not had any thefts during the dates mentioned above.](#)

- 2) The total revenue accrued by the council in sales of art and antiques in 2016/17, 2015/16 and 2014/15 A) How many pieces were sold B) what was the highest amount raised for a single piece each year C) Where was it sold D) What was sold? And what is it called? Can I have that broken down by year

[In response to question 2 above, I can confirm that we have not sold any items during the dates mentioned above.](#)

- 3) Over the years 2016/17, 2015/16 and 2014/15 what, if any, artworks were broken? Can you provide with a) the names of the pieces broken b) if you had insurance c) their value (your estimate is fine) d) the cost of repairs. Can I have that broken down by year

	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
a) The names of the pieces broken	Nil	Nil	'Sir Edward Turner'
b) If you had insurance	Nil	Nil	Yes
c) Their value (your estimate is fine)	Nil	Nil	Please see below *
d) The cost of repairs	Nil	Nil	£414+ VAT

- * In the interest of the security of the artworks and artefacts in Wolverhampton City Council's care, it is our policy not to reveal any insurance values of objects in the collection. Therefore, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the Act") Wolverhampton Council has withheld this information, as we consider that the Section 31 exemption applies.

To further explain our reasons for applying of this exemption:

Section 31 (Crime Prevention)

We are applying this exemption because providing the exact value of objects and artworks in the care of the council facilitates easy identification of the most items or artworks, which places them at increased risk of theft or vandalism.

In not providing the requested information we have considered the balance of interest as set out in section 2(2)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Whilst we acknowledge that there is a public interest in the value of objects and artworks held in public collections being freely available, in this case we feel that this interest is outweighed by the need to protect the collections from theft and vandalism. We also feel that it is our responsibility to take whatever actions best protects the objects and artworks held in our care and donated to us in good faith by the public.

In applying this exemption we make no assumption as to your own interest in this matter, but we are mindful that if we release this information to the public domain we will be unable to control who has access to it.

We can confirm that the service currently insures the entire collection to value of £10million, however this is not reflective of the market value of the collection.