

## Response to Request for Information

Reference      FOI 002350  
Date            30 May 2018

### ***Museum Artefacts***

#### **Request:**

- 1) How many museums does your council run?  
We have three museums, which we run within the Visitor Economy Service.
  
- 2) How many items are there in your museums' collections?  
We have approximately 17,000 items in the collection. This includes a number of large collections of smaller objects such as geology specimens, numismatics and archaeological finds as well as locally made enamels and steel jewellery, which does inflate the number of objects.

What is their combined value?

In the interest of the security of the artworks and artefacts in City of Wolverhampton'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") City of 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.

- 3) How many of those items are currently on display?  
About 10% of our collections are on display. Some items for reasons of conservation are necessarily limited to short periods of public display. The collections rotate regularly and our reserve collections are available to view in our store by appointment. Items from the gallery are also at times loaned to other galleries for specific exhibitions, or on a longer term basis, and on a similar basis the Art Gallery can receive loans from other galleries for specific exhibitions.

What is their combined value?

Please see our response to the second part of question 1.

- 4) For each of the last four financial years, ending with 2017/18:
- a. How many items have been sold by your museums? What is the sum of money those sales have raised?  
No collection items have been sold from our collection.
  - b. How much of that money was kept within museums rather than going to other parts of the council?  
N/A
  - c. How many items have been bought by your museums?  
Twenty two works have been bought by the museums in the past four years.

How much, in total, was paid for them?

Please see our response to the second part of question 1.

- 5) Over the last four years, what is the single biggest amount raised by selling an item? What was the item in question? How and to whom was it sold?  
No items have been sold from our collection.
- 6) Even if no sales have been made, has the council considered selling any of its collection at any point over the last four years?  
City of Wolverhampton Council has never considered selling items from the collection.