



## Response to Request for Information

Reference      FOI 002867  
Date            15 October 2018

### ***Wolverhampton Art Gallery – Exhibitions/Visitor Figures***

#### **Request:**

I would like to submit an FOI please.

Could I ask for a list of exhibitions held at Wolverhampton Art Gallery with dates and associated visitor figures over the last 30 years please (or as many years as you can provide please). If visitor figures aren't available per exhibition, could annual visitor figures be provided. I would be grateful to receive this information in any electronic format, though Excel would probably be the better format if possible.

Your request for information has now been considered and the City of Wolverhampton Council is not obliged to supply the information you requested for the reasons set out below.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires City of Wolverhampton Council, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you, the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states the fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies:

In relation to your particular request, the following exemption applies:

#### **Section 12 - Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit**

We can confirm that the Council holds information falling within the description specified in your request. However, Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 allows a public authority to refuse a request if the cost of providing the information to the applicant would exceed the 'appropriate limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information.

The Regulations provide that the appropriate limit to be applied to requests received by local authorities is £450 (equivalent to 18 hours of work). In estimating the cost of complying with a request for information, an authority can only take into account any reasonable costs incurred in:

- (a) *Determining whether it holds the information,*

- (b) *Locating the information, or a document which may contain the information,*
- (c) *Retrieving the information, or a document which may contain the information,*
- and
- (d) *Extracting the information from a document containing it.*

*For the purposes of the estimate the costs of performing these activities should be estimated at a rate of £25 per hour.*

The information appertaining to your request is not easily accessible and as such this information is not held as a distinct set able to be retrieved or reported on. To explain further, we are not able to provide data for the past 30 years as this has not been recorded in an easily accessible method. The only way to provide this information would be physically access the files in our archive and record the dates and details of each exhibition. Accessing and translating this information into a clear format would be very time consuming and with an average of 30 exhibitions a year taking place this would amount to recording data relating to approximately 900 exhibitions. This would be a manual exercise and as such we believe that the aggregated time it would take to collate the information would be in excess of 18 hours (equivalent to a notional cost of £450).

Since 2012, as part of our reporting to Arts Council we have been required to report on the number of exhibitions held annually and the visitor figures for the year. We attach a spreadsheet with details of this information that goes back to 2012. I hope that this is helpful information. The figures are for visitors to the Art Gallery as a whole as we do not have individual counters on each gallery but it does provide an idea of the average attendances for our shows.

<b>Exhibitions Wolverhampton Art Gallery</b>		
Year	Number of exhibitions	Number of visitors
2012/13	45	175,000
2013/14	45	178,056
2014/15	47	191,008
2015/16	27	104,809
2016/17	29	99,115
2017/18	29	143,000