

Request:

I am investigating the extent to which councils in the UK are able to dispose of museum artefacts to raise money.

I'd like to request the following information under FOI.

- 1) How many museums does your council run?

North Tyneside Council is a one of four local authorities on Tyneside who jointly have their museums managed by Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums (TWAM). TWAM manages 9 museums across the four local authorities of which 2 are owned by North Tyneside Council:

- Segedunum Roman Fort
- Stephenson Railway Museum

- 2) How many items are there in your museums' collections? What is their combined value?

The Authority does not hold a full inventory of works of art and treasures in its area - either in storage or on display. The size and nature of the collection largely precludes an exercise of this nature. However, the estimated total number of items in the collections managed by TWAM, as at March 31st 2018 is 1,127,494. We also hold approximately 1.6k cubic meters of archive material.

These collections are not currently valued in their entirety with only the Art collection recognised in the financial statements for 2017/18. This is due to a number of factors such as the lack of information on purchase price, the unavailability of comparable market values, the diverse nature of the objects and the volume of objects held.

The value of the art collection shown in the local authority Balance Sheet is based on detailed insurance valuations (based on market values). Items in the Art collection estimated to be worth in excess of £10k are identified separately for insurance purposes. From these records the estimated number of items in the art collection is 0 and value of the art collection owned by North Tyneside Council at 31st March 2018 is £0 million

- 3) How many of those items are currently on display? What is their combined value?

The number of items currently on display belonging to North Tyneside Council at 31st March 2018 is 736 objects.

These collections are not currently valued in their entirety with only the Art collection recognised in the financial statements for 2017/18 as explained above. Therefore, the combined value of items currently on display is unknown.

- 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?

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None

- b. How much of that money was kept within museums rather than going to other parts of the council?

None

- c. How many items have been bought by your museums? How much, in total, was paid for them?

None

- 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.

- 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?

No.