

Request:

Please advise:

1. The total number of works of art owned by your local authority.
2. The estimated total value.
3. The number of works currently on display.
4. How many works of art have been donated by the local authority over the past five years?
5. How many works of art have been leased by the local authority over the past five years and the total revenue.
6. How many works of art have been sold by the local authority over the past five years and the total proceeds from any sales.
7. The cost to the local authority of maintaining your art collection for the financial year 2022/23. Please include any costs for security, conservation and insurance.

Response:

The total museum collection comprises 35,000 objects which includes over 4,000 paintings, prints, sketches, musical instruments, decorative arts, pewter and glass items, coins and jewellery (pieces of art).

The overall insurance valuation of the museum collection is £6,585,373, including civic regalia. (It is not possible to calculate the value of the individual 4,000 artworks within the 18 hour FOI time limit).

Approximately 150 artworks are on public display at: The Museum of Wigan Life, Wigan Town Hall, Wigan Library, Leigh Library & Turnpike Gallery, Wigan Youth Zone. This changes year on year, depending on displays.

48. (50 paintings were bequeathed to Wigan Library Service by an unknown local artist. Two of these became part of the Museum of Wigan Life's collection. The rest were gifted to a local care home where the artist lived).

The local authority does not lease artworks. However, we have loaned one object free of charge.

No publicly owned works of art have been sold by Wigan Council since 2018.

Two artworks were conserved in 2022/23 at a cost of £1,350.

£64k secure storage per year (for the museum collection as a whole).

Insurance Premium for 2023–2024 is £15,037 (for the collection and civic regalia).