



I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the Haigh Hall project and its management under the terms of the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Specifically, I am seeking details on actions taken by Wigan Council in response to the withdrawal of the Major family's £200 million art collection from the project.

Please provide the following information:

1. Project Adjustment Requests (PARs):

- Copies of any Project Adjustment Requests (PARs) submitted to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) concerning changes to the Haigh Hall project due to the withdrawal of the Major family's art collection.

2. DLUHC Correspondence and Approval:

- Any correspondence between Wigan Council and DLUHC regarding the withdrawal of the Major family's art collection.
- Details of any approvals received from DLUHC for changes to the project following the collection's withdrawal.

3. Impact Assessments:

- Any internal or external impact assessments conducted by Wigan Council to evaluate how the withdrawal of the Major family's art collection affects the delivery, milestones, and outputs of the Haigh Hall project as outlined in the original LUF bid.

4. Governance and Reporting:

- Records of any meetings, minutes, or decisions made by the governance board responsible for the Haigh Hall project concerning this significant development.

5. Public Communications:

- Any press releases, public statements, or other communications issued by Wigan Council addressing the withdrawal of the art collection and its implications for the Haigh

If some parts of the information requested are exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, please provide any material that can be disclosed. Additionally, if you need further clarification regarding my request, please let me know promptly.

Response

1. The loan of the art work was not a requirement for DHLUC funding. The original application did not refer to the artwork and nor was funding granted on the basis the artwork loan was secured
2. There is no correspondence as the artwork was not linked to or part of DHLUC funding.
3. No such impact assessments are necessary nor been made. The Arts Council were made aware as part of regular verbal updates and have not expressed any concern
4. The Governance Board has not discussed the matter
5. The council has only issued one statement in response to our decision not to renew the creative directors' contract which does not reference the art collection. It is as follows:

A Wigan Council spokesperson said: "We are saddened to see the public statement made by Al and Al and the unfounded allegations made within, including the inaccurate description of events provided.

"There is no doubt that Al and Al's artistic direction has shaped the vision for Haigh and for that we are truly grateful. That being said, Al and Al were just two members of a creative and committed project team working hard to realise our ambition for Haigh. We're confident that as we enter this next phase, the project will really come to life."

In addition to this we have also prepared some FAQs, one of which responds to the question about the art collection, which can be found here: [Your questions answered](#)