



Export of objects of cultural interest

Statistical Release – 15 November 2011

Purpose of release

This statistical release presents the figures related to the export of objects of cultural interest which will be included in the report on the operation of the control of such objects which the Secretary of State is required to present to Parliament under Section 10(1)(a) of the Export Control Act 2002 .

These figures are collated by the Export Licensing Unit at Arts Council England on behalf of the Secretary of State.

Current export controls

The export controls are derived from both UK and EU legislation. The UK statutory powers are exercised by the Secretary of State under the Export Control Act 2002. Under the Act, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport has made the Export of Objects of Cultural Interest (Control) Order 2003. Export Controls are also imposed by Council Regulation (EC) No 116/09 on the export of cultural goods. The control is enforced by the UK Border Agency on behalf of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

Export Control Act 2002

The Export Control Act 2002 replaced the export control powers contained within the Import, Export and Customs Powers (Defence) Act 1939 legislation on strategic export controls. It provides a transparent framework and increases Parliamentary accountability. It is the main UK legislation on export controls for cultural goods.

The purpose of the export control is to give an opportunity for the retention in this country of cultural goods considered to be of outstanding national importance. The system is designed to strike a balance, as fairly as possible, between the various interests concerned in any application for an export licence - for instance, the protection of the national heritage; the rights of the owners selling the goods; the exporter or overseas purchaser; and the position and reputation of the UK as an international art market.

The Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest

An independent Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art¹ was first appointed in 1952 following the recommendations of the Waverley Committee. It succeeded an earlier Committee of the same name established in 1949, comprising museum directors and officials, which heard appeals against refusals and, from 1950, all cases where refusals were recommended. The Committee is a non-statutory independent body whose role is to advise the Secretary of State whether a cultural object which is the subject of an application for an export licence is of national importance under the Waverley criteria². The Committee consists of eight full members, appointed by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, seven of whom have particular expertise in one or more relevant fields (paintings, furniture, manuscripts etc), and a Chairman, also appointed by the Secretary of State.

Key messages

During the period covered by the report (1 May 2010 to 30 April 2011):

- there were 11,134 applications for export licences, covering a total of 55,847 items;
- 1,679 of these applications were for the export of manuscripts, documents or archives;
- 19,686 items, with a total value of £1,487,129,756, were issued with export licences after they had been referred to expert advisers;
- 67 Open Individual Export Licences were in operation having been issued in December 2010 to take effect for a period of three years commencing on 1 January 2011 and ending on 31 December 2013 to regular exporters for the following categories of objects: (a) 11 for the export of manuscripts, documents, archives and photographic positives and negatives; (b) 3 for the export of goods over 50 years of age imported into the UK within the past 50 years; (c) 1 for the export of UK origin coins; (d) 1 for the temporary export of

¹ The Committee's terms of reference are:

- To advise on the principles which should govern the control of the export of objects of cultural interest under the Export Control Act 2002 and on the operation of the export control system generally.
- To advise the Secretary of State on all cases where refusal of an export licence for an object of cultural interest is suggested on grounds of national importance.
- To advise in cases where a Special Exchequer Grant is needed towards the purchase of an object that would otherwise be exported.

²

History	Aesthetics	Scholarship
Is it so closely connected with our history and national life that its departure would be a misfortune?	Is it of outstanding aesthetic importance?	Is it of outstanding significance for the study of some particular branch of art, learning or history?
<i>Waverley 1</i>	<i>Waverley 2</i>	<i>Waverley 3</i>

a Rolls Royce; (e) 1 for the temporary export of objects in soil samples that have been taken from archaeological sites in Northern Ireland and (f) 50 for the temporary export of objects over 50 years of age owned by or under the control of a national institution or an institution holding a designated collection.

- 32,802 items, with a total value of £8,546,102,829, were issued with export licences after the Export Licensing Unit was satisfied that they had been imported into the United Kingdom within the past 50 years. Of these, 1,671 were manuscripts, documents or archives covering a total value of £60,645,287.
- 3,359 items, with a total value of £2,360,899,205, were given an EU licence without reference to the question of national importance because the items were either: valued at below the appropriate UK monetary limit; owned by a museum or gallery that had an Open Individual Export Licence (OIEL); manuscripts valued at £1,500 or less or coins valued at £500 or less and the exporter held a valid OIEL; musical instruments exported for less than three months for use in the course of work by a professional musician; a motor vehicle exported for less than three months for social, domestic or pleasure purposes; a foreign registered motor vehicle exported following importation for less than three months for pleasure purposes.

Items referred to the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest by Expert Advisers:

- In 2010-11, 24 cases were referred to the Committee. Of these, 7 were withdrawn before they reached the stage of consideration by the Committee and the other 17 cases were considered.
- 1 case that was referred to the Committee in 2009-10 was considered and resolved in 2010-11.
- Of the 18 cases considered by the Committee, 14 met at least one of the Waverley criteria and 3 of these were starred as a sign of their outstanding importance.
- 14 cases were referred to the Secretary of State for deferral and he accepted the Committee's recommendations on all of them.
- The aggregate value of the 14 items deferred was £71,725,403.
- Of the 14 cases where items were deferred, 2 were subsequently withdrawn, 1 was refused an export licence as the owner had refused a matching offer to purchase the item and 4 resulted in acquisitions by institutions or individuals in the United Kingdom, of which none were starred.
- The 4 cases where items were purchased have a total value of £3,752,918 (value price at deferral), which represents 5 per cent of the total value of objects placed under deferral.
- Export licences were issued for the remaining 7 items which have a total value of £65,837,016.

Export of objects of cultural interest figures for 2010-11

- Secretary of State's Operation of the Control table as required by Section 10 (1)(a) of the Export Control Act 2002

		1 May 2010 – 30 April 2011	1 May 2009 – 30 April 2010
(a)	Number of applications for individual export licences ³	11,134	10,437
(b)	Number of above applications which were for manuscripts, documents or archives	1,679	1,501
(c)	Number of items licensed after reference to expert advisers on the question of national importance	19,686	20,713
(d)	Total value of items in (c)	£1,487,129,756	£1,183,937,807
(e)	Number of Open Individual Export Licences in operation having been issued in previous years to regular exporters for the export of (i) manuscripts, documents, archives and photographic positives and negatives; (ii) objects imported into the UK in the past 50 years; (iii) UK origin coins; (iv) the temporary export of a Rolls Royce; (v) the temporary export of objects in soil samples from archaeological sites in Northern Ireland; (vi) the temporary export of objects owned or under the control of national institutions or institutions holding designated collections.	67	91
(f)	Number of items licensed after the Export Licensing Unit was satisfied of import into the UK within the past 50 years	32,802	10,770
(g)	Total value of items in (f)	£8,546,102,829	£7,194,621,875
(h)	Number of items in (f) which were manuscripts, documents or archives	1,671	1,587
(i)	Total value of items in (h)	£60,645,287	£69,196,794
(j)	Number of items given an EU licence without reference to the question of national importance because they were either: valued at below the appropriate UK monetary limit; owned by a museum or gallery that had an Open Individual Export Licence (OIEL); manuscripts valued at £1,500 or less or coins valued at £500 or less and the exporter held a valid OIEL; musical instruments exported for less than three months for use in the course of work by a professional musician; a motor vehicle exported for less than three months for social, domestic or pleasure purposes; a foreign registered motor vehicle exported following importation for less than three months for pleasure purposes; imported into the UK in the last 50 years and were being exported on a	3,359	4,146

³ One application may cover several items.

Department for Culture, Media and Sport

	temporary basis.		
(k)	Total value of items in (j) ⁴	£2,360,899,205	£814,289,270

⁴ In some cases, an EU export licence may be required to export items that are valued below the relevant UK monetary limit. In such cases, an EU licence will normally be given without referring the licence application to the expert adviser on the question of national importance.

Department for Culture, Media and Sport

- The statistics below show the figures for the number of cases from 2001-02 to 2010-11.

(1) Year	(2) Cases considered by the Committee	(3) Cases where a decision on the licence application was deferred	(4) Cases in (3) where items were not licensed for permanent export	(5) Cases where items were not licensed for permanent export as % of (3)	(6) Value (at deferral) of cases in (4) where items were not licensed for permanent export (£m)	(7) Cases in (3) where items were licensed for permanent export	(8) Cases where items were licensed for permanent export as % of (3)	(9) Value of items in (3) (at deferral) licensed for export (£m)
2001-02	34	30 ⁵	25	83	7.5	5	17	11.4 ⁶
2002-03	26	23	14	61	51.7	9	39	23.2
July 2003-April 2004	18	9	7	78	6.8	2	22	1.0
2004-05	32	25	15	60	16.2	10	40	30.2
2005-06	22	17	9	53	8.3	8	47	7.3
2006-07	28	19 ⁷	14 ⁸	74	11.8	4	21	10.7
2007-08	18	16	9 ⁹	56	2.5	7	44	12.8
2008-09	22	16	9	56	1.5	7	44	14.2
2009-10	14 ¹⁰	13 ¹¹	7	54	10.1	6	46	60.8
2010-11	18 ¹²	14 ¹³	7	50	5.9	7	50	65.8
TOTALS	232	182	116	64	122.3	65	36	237.4

⁵ Excludes one case where an item was originally thought to be Waverley but subsequently found to have been imported into the UK within the last 50 years.

⁶ Excludes one case where a licence was issued but the owner subsequently sold the item to a UK institution.

⁷ Excludes one case where an item was originally thought to be Waverley but subsequently found to have been imported into the UK within the last 50 years.

⁸ Excludes one case still under deferral at the time of writing and includes two cases where the licence application was withdrawn during the deferral period.

⁹ Includes one case where the licence application was refused at the end of the first deferral period because the owner refused to confirm that they were willing to accept a matching offer from a UK purchaser.

¹⁰ Excludes one case which was carried over into 2010-11.

¹¹ Excludes one case which was carried over into 2010-11.

¹² Includes one case which was carried over from 2009-10.

¹³ Includes one case which was carried over from 2009-10.

Department for Culture, Media and Sport

- The statistics below show the figures for the values associated with cases from 2001-02 to 2010-11.

(1) Year	(2) Cases where a decision on the licence application was deferred	(3) Value of items in (2) (£m)	(4) Cases where items were acquired by institutions or individuals in the UK ¹⁴	(5) Value (at deferral) of items in (4) (£m)	(6) Value of items in (5) as % of (3) (£m)	(7) Cases where the application was refused or withdrawn after the announcement of the Secretary of State's decision	(8) Value of items in (7) (£m)
2001-02	30 ¹⁵	18.9	22 ¹⁶	5.4	29	3	2.0
2002-03	23	74.9	12	39.2	52	2	12.5
July 2003- April 2004	9	7.7	7	6.8	88	1	0.8
2004- 05	25	46.4	10	5.8	13	7	11.3
2005-06	17	15.6	9	8.3	53	0	0
2006-07	19 ¹⁷	24.5	12	7.0	29	3	4.8
2007-08	16	15.3	8	1.4	9	1	1.1
2008-09	16	15.7	9	1.5	10	0	0
2009-10	13 ¹⁸	71.5	6	10.1	14	1	0.6
2010-11	14 ¹⁹	71.7	4	3.8	5	3	2.1
TOTALS	182	362.2	99	89.3	25	21	35.2

¹⁴ This only includes items purchased by individuals who agreed to guarantee satisfactory public access, conservation and security arrangements.

¹⁵ Excludes one case where an item was originally thought to be Waverley but subsequently found to have been imported into the UK within the last 50 years.

¹⁶ Includes one case where a licence was issued but the owner subsequently sold the item to a UK institution.

¹⁷ Excludes one case where an item was originally thought to be Waverley but subsequently found to have been imported into the UK within the last 50 years.

¹⁸ Excludes one case which was carried over into 2010-11.

¹⁹ Includes one case which was carried over from 2009-10.

Department for Culture, Media and Sport

- Table showing the value of items placed under deferral (2001-02 to 2010-11)
(i) for which permanent licences were issued and (ii) where items were purchased by UK institutions or individuals.

(1) Year	(2) Value of items where a decision on the licence application was deferred (£m)	(3) Value (at deferral) of cases in (2) where items were licensed for permanent export (£m)	(4) Value of items in (3) as % of (2)	(5) Value of items in (2) that were not licensed for export (£m)	(6) Value (at deferral) of cases in (2) where items were purchased by UK institutions or individuals ²⁰ (£m)	(7) Value of items in (6) as % of (2)
2001-02	18.9 ²¹	11.4 ²²	60	7.5 ²³	5.4 ²⁴	29
2002-03	74.9	23.2	31	51.7 ²⁵	39.2	52
July 2003-April 2004	7.7	1.0	13	6.8	6.8	88
2004-05	46.4	30.2	65	16.2 ²⁶	5.8	13
2005-06	15.6	7.3	47	8.3	8.3	53
2006-07	24.5	10.7 ²⁷	44	11.8	7.0	29
2007-08	15.3	12.8	84	2.5	1.4	9
2008-09	15.7	14.2	90	1.5	1.5	10
2009-10	71.5	60.8	85	10.7 ²⁸	10.1	14
2010-11	71.7	65.8	92	5.9 ²⁹	3.8	5
Totals	362.2	237.4	66	122.9	89.3	25

²⁰ This only includes items purchased by individuals who agreed to guarantee satisfactory public access, conservation and security arrangements.

²¹ Excludes one case where the item was originally found to be Waverley but subsequently found to have been imported into the UK within the last 50 years.

²² Excludes value of one case (£2,000,000) where a licence was issued, but the owner subsequently sold the item to a UK institution and one case (£65,868.75) where it was subsequently discovered the items had not been in the UK for 50 years so a licence was issued in accordance with normal policy.

²³ Includes value of two cases (£237,607.50) where a matching offer was refused and the Secretary of State therefore refused an export licence; one case (£2,000,000) where a licence was issued but the owner subsequently sold the item to a UK institution and one case (£1,815,750) where the licence application was withdrawn although no matching offer was made.

²⁴ Includes value of one case (£2,000,000) where a licence was issued but the owner subsequently sold the item to a UK institution.

²⁵ Includes value of two cases (£12,543,019.38) where a matching offer was refused and the Secretary of State therefore refused an export licence.

²⁶ Includes value of five cases (£10,422,776) where the application was withdrawn during the deferral period.

²⁷ Excludes one case where the item was originally found to be Waverley but subsequently found to have been imported into the UK within the last 50 years.

²⁸ Includes value of one case (£554,937.50) where the application was withdrawn during the deferral period.

²⁹ Includes value of one case (£389,600) where a matching offer was refused and the Secretary of State therefore refused an export licence and value of two cases (£1,645,868) where the application was withdrawn during the deferral period.

Department for Culture, Media and Sport

- Items licensed for export after reference to expert advisers for advice as to national importance: 1 May 2010 - 30 April 2011.

Category	Advising authority	No of Items	Total value (£)
Arms and armour	Royal Armouries, Leeds, Associate Director	21	7,391,586
Books, maps etc	British Library, Keeper of Printed Books, Head of Map Collections	44	8,070,638
Books (natural history)	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Head of Library and Archives	6	23,830,712
Clocks and watches	British Museum, Keeper of Clocks and Watches	33	5,389,430
Coins and medals	British Museum, Keeper of Coins and Medals	267	8,158,645
Drawings: architectural, engineering and scientific	Victoria & Albert Museum, Keeper of Word & Image Department	19	816,900
Drawings, prints, water-colours	British Museum, Keeper of Prints and Drawings	367	154,352,501
Egyptian antiquities	British Museum, Keeper of Egyptian Antiquities	1,869	25,856,637
Ethnography	British Museum, Keeper of Ethnography	18	28,239,943
Furniture and woodwork	Victoria & Albert Museum, Keeper of Furniture and Textiles & Fashion Department	186	36,860,953
Greek and Roman antiquities	British Museum, Keeper of Greek and Roman Antiquities	9	2,443,397
Indian furniture	Victoria & Albert Museum, Senior Curator of Asian Department, South & South East Asian Collection	0	-
Japanese antiquities	British Museum, Department of Asia	15	1,591,063
Manuscripts, documents and archives	British Library, Curator, Department of Manuscripts	3,213	71,194,091
Maritime material, including paintings	National Maritime Museum, Director of Collections	2	73,645
Oriental antiquities (except Japanese)	British Museum, Department of Asia	182	64,184,671
Oriental furniture	Victoria & Albert Museum, Senior Curator of Asian Department, Chinese Collection	5	1,042,871
Paintings, British, modern	Tate Gallery	166	335,327,176
Paintings, foreign	National Gallery, Director	216	510,022,639
Paintings, miniature	Victoria & Albert Museum, Senior Curator of Painting Section, Word & Image Department	1	32,500
Paintings, portraits of British persons	National Portrait Gallery, Director	37	53,507,900
Photographs	National Media Museum, Head	45	3,266,173

Department for Culture, Media and Sport

Pottery	Victoria & Albert Museum, Head of Ceramics & Glass Department	33	6,051,267
Prehistory & Europe (inc. Archaeological material, Medieval and later antiquities & Metal Detecting Finds)	British Museum, Keeper of Prehistory & Europe Department of Portable Antiquities & Treasure (Metal Detecting Finds)	12,564	3,992,317
Scientific and mechanical material	Science Museum, Head of Collections	12	2,800,000
Sculpture	Victoria & Albert Museum, Senior Curator of Sculpture, Metalwork, Ceramic & Glass Department Tate Gallery (20 th Century Sculpture)	94	39,014,097
Silver and weapons, Scottish	National Museum of Scotland, Director	0	-
Silver, metalwork and jewellery	Victoria & Albert Museum, Senior Curator of Sculpture, Metalwork, Ceramic & Glass Department	160	47,461,010
Tapestries, carpets (and textiles)	Victoria & Albert Museum, Senior Curator of Furniture, Textiles & Fashion Department	56	25,979,488
Toys	Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood, Head	1	100,000
Transport	Heritage Motor Centre	28	16,720,572
Wallpaper	Victoria & Albert Museum, Senior Curator of Prints Section, Word & Image Department	0	-
Western Asiatic antiquities	British Museum, Keeper of Ethnography	15	3,193,267
Zoology (stuffed specimens)	Natural History Museum, Director of Science	2	163,667
Totals		19,686	1,487,129,756

Department for Culture, Media and Sport

- Applications considered and deferred on the recommendation of the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest (2001-02 to 2010-11)

Year	Number of Waverley items granted a permanent export licence	Value of Waverley items granted a permanent export licence (£)	Number of Waverley items purchased during deferral	Total amount spent on Waverley items purchased during deferral (£)	Number of Waverley items supported by HLF/NHMF	Support by HLF/NHMF (£)	Number of Waverley items supported by The Art Fund	Support by The Art Fund (£)	Number of Waverley items supported by MLA/V&A Purchase Grant Fund	Support by MLA/V&A Purchase Grant Fund (£)
2001-02	5 ³⁰	11,436,169	21	2,944,208	18	1,627,956	19	69,395	3	78,000
2002-03	9	23,191,548	12	26,173,106	7	14,283,115	9	905,184	1	30,000
July 2003-April 2004	2	1,000,000	5	2,237,604	1	110,000	2	79,000	1	40,000
2004-05	10	30,193,090	10	5,825,135	4	2,577,000	4	975,000	1	3,500
2005-06	8	7,285,012	9	8,278,510	4	855,200	5	308,330	3	32,330
2006-07	5 ³¹	10,709,778	12	7,009,075	4	1,944,032	3	700,275	2	40,000
2007-08	7	12,770,031	8	1,431,256	6	471,986	6	248,750	2	50,000
2008-09	7	14,186,010	9	1,521,684	2	378,000	4	329,292	3	118,500
2009-10	6	60,813,750	6	10,119,674.47	2	186,000	3	245,100	1	17,000
2010-11	7	65,837,016	4	3,752,918	3	2,410,000	4	470,000	1	20,000

³⁰ A licence was issued for a further item, but it was subsequently sold to a UK institution.

³¹ Includes one item where the licence was issued following receipt of satisfactory proof that it had been imported into the UK within the last 50 years.

Department for Culture, Media and Sport

Year	Item	Purchaser	Price (£)	Support by HLF/NHMF (£)	Support by The Art Fund (£)	Support by MLA/V&A Purchase Grant Fund (£)
2010-11	A zodiac settle	Cecil Higgins Art Gallery and Bedford Museum	£800,000	£430,000	£180,000	£0
2010-11	The great silver wine cistern of Thomas Wentworth	Temple Newsam (Leeds Museums and Galleries)	£2,073,648	£1,832,000	£140,000	£0
2010-11	A lacquered Imari porcelain garniture	Ashmolean Museum	£109,250	£0	£40,000	£20,000
2010-11	A William IV cabinet on stand by William Beckford	Beckford Tower Trust	£285,000	£148,000	£110,000	£0

Format of Statistical Release:

This release is available in rtf and pdf format.

Previous reports:

Statistics covering previous years can be found at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/6515.aspx

Next release of data:

Statistics from 2011-12 will be published in the last quarter of 2012

Methodology:

The Export Licensing Unit at the Arts Council England records all export licence applications made and export licences issued in the UK for the export of cultural goods outside the UK. Its database records the following information: number of applications for individual export licences received and the date of receipt; number of individual export licences issued and the date of issue; number of items to which individual export licences or applications relate; total value of those items as given by the applicant; the type of licence issued (EU or UK), whether it has been referred to an adviser or not and whether it is temporary or permanent; a description of the items; the name and address of the applicant and the owner and the country of destination.

The database has an inbuilt programme that extracts the information required to produce the statistics contained in this release by way of “reports”. The number of Open Individual Export Licences issued and in operation at any one time is recorded on an excel spreadsheet. This records the type of object they relate to; the name and address of the holder; the date of issue and the date of expiry.

The statistics gathered from the database and the excel spreadsheet together with further details of the objects found to be of national importance have previously been published annually and most recently in the [Export of Objects of Cultural Interest 2009-10](#).

The Code of Practice for Official Statistics and specifically the Principle on Confidentiality set out practices for how we protect data from being disclosed. The Principle includes the statement that the Office of National Statistics (“ONS”) outputs should “ensure that official statistics do not reveal the identity of an individual or organisation, or any private information relating to them, taking into account other relevant sources of information”. More information can be found in **National Statistician’s Guidance: Confidentiality of Official Statistics** and also on the **Statistical Disclosure Control Methodology** page of the ONS website.

Department for Culture, Media and Sport

Contact for enquiries:

Department for Culture, Media and Sport
2-4 Cockspur Street
London SW1Y 5DH
evidence@culture.gsi.gov.uk

The responsible analyst for this release is Peter Antoniadou
For enquiries on this release contact: 020 7211 6188
For general enquiries telephone: 020 7211 6000