



Ministry of Defence

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Dear

Thank you for your email of 20th February 2015 requesting the following information:

- “1. How many works of art does your department own?*
- 2. How many are on public display and how often?*
- 3. What is the total value of the collection?*
- 4. What is the annual departmental spend on art? Provide figures for each of the last five years.”*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

1. The MOD Art Collection currently comprises 2145 items of fine art, prints, maps, photographs, manuscripts, sculptures and antiques, including furniture and clocks.
2. A number of items are on loan to institutions on a long term basis where they can be viewed by the public. There are 178 items with the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich (which includes the Royal Observatory). 173 items are with the Royal Yacht Britannia Trust. Three items are with the National Museum of the Royal Navy, Portsmouth. One item is with the Fusilier Museum, Bury. The paintings in the collection can be viewed online at www.bbc.co.uk/arts/yourpaintings/galleries/locations/ministry-of-defence-5995. In some circumstances, other items in the collection can also be viewed by appointment.
3. We do not have a value for the MOD Art Collection. Like the Government Art Collection and other public collections, the Collection is not treated as a financial asset. Due to the constant fluctuations of prices on the art market, information is not held on the total value.
4. There has been no departmental expenditure on acquiring items over the last five years. Please find enclosed a breakdown of the expenditure for maintaining items already held.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that the vast majority of the items in MOD Art Collection are displayed across the Defence Estate, and some other government departments (Cabinet Office - 26 Whitehall, DFID - 22 Whitehall) where these buildings were previously part of the Defence Estate. Such buildings are open to the public from time to time, for example as part of the Open House London weekend scheduled for this year on 19th and 20^h September. More information can be found at www.openhouselondon.org.uk.

Additional information about the MOD Art Collection can be found at www.gov.uk/ministry-of-defence-art-collection.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.org.uk>

Yours sincerely,

DDC Secretariat Parliamentary