



Ministry of Defence

Our Ref: FOI2015/06051

Ministry of Defence
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Dear

Thank you for your email of 7th July 2015 requesting the following information:

“For all of the art items for which you do have a value, insurance, estimate, or otherwise, and where that value is accessible within the time limits of the act:

- 1) *Please provide the total value of these items*
- 2) *For the five most valuable items, for which you do have a value:*
 - a) *If purchased by the organisation, what was its purchase price, year of purchase and reason for purchase*
 - b) *What is its current value?”*

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 information in scope of your request is held. The information you have requested can be found below.

- 1) As stated in answer to your previous FOI request on the topic (FOI2015/04979), like other national public collections, the MOD Art Collection is not treated as a financial asset. The current monetary value of a work of art can be accurately assessed only at the time of purchase or sale by professional valuation. The Collection is not actively traded; it would not be justifiable expenditure of public funds to maintain current valuations for the Collection as a whole. However, we do hold estimates from April 2009 provided to us by the National Maritime Museum for the items we have on loan to there. The items are on public display there and have been so for many years. The total estimated value for those items is £66,513,800.
- 2a) No information held. We believe that all these items have been in Government possession since the 18th century and were acquired to provide very accurate timekeeping and therefore safer maritime navigation.
- 2b) Please find the estimated value advised by the National Maritime Museum in 2009 for the five most valuable items on loan in the table below. As with the other items on loan at the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich, these have been on public display for many years. The items listed – all marine timekeepers – are of great historic and scientific

significance, having revolutionised the accuracy of timekeeping and navigation and so contributing significantly to the rise of British naval power, global exploration and maritime trade from the 18th century onwards.

Item Name	NMM Valuation as at April 2009
Marine timekeeper	£ 20,000,000
Marine timekeeper	£ 10,000,000
Marine timekeeper	£ 8,000,000
Marine timekeeper	£ 8,000,000
Marine timekeeper	£ 6,000,000

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