

# Museum Partnership Report

Sharing Collections 2019/20

July 2021

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## **Museum Partnership Report - Sharing Collections**

The Mendoza Review<sup>1</sup> (published in 2017) identified nine priorities for museums (covering issues like growing and diversifying audiences, dynamic collection curation and working internationally among others) and set out a number of recommendations for DCMS and its arm's-length bodies to continue to support the thriving museums sector. It was published alongside the Strategic Review of DCMS-Sponsored Museums<sup>2</sup>. Both reviews highlighted that the footprint, scale and impact of museum partnership activity are not well understood by the museum sector or the public. It was agreed that DCMS would conduct an annual survey and publish a report capturing the national museums partnership activities - both for public benefit as well as research and development.

UK national museums hold some of the most important collections in the world. The national museums regularly loan objects from their collections, both those in storage and from their own displays. By lending their collections, the national museums engage new audiences, impact on a wide range of social outcomes and support the wider museum sector.

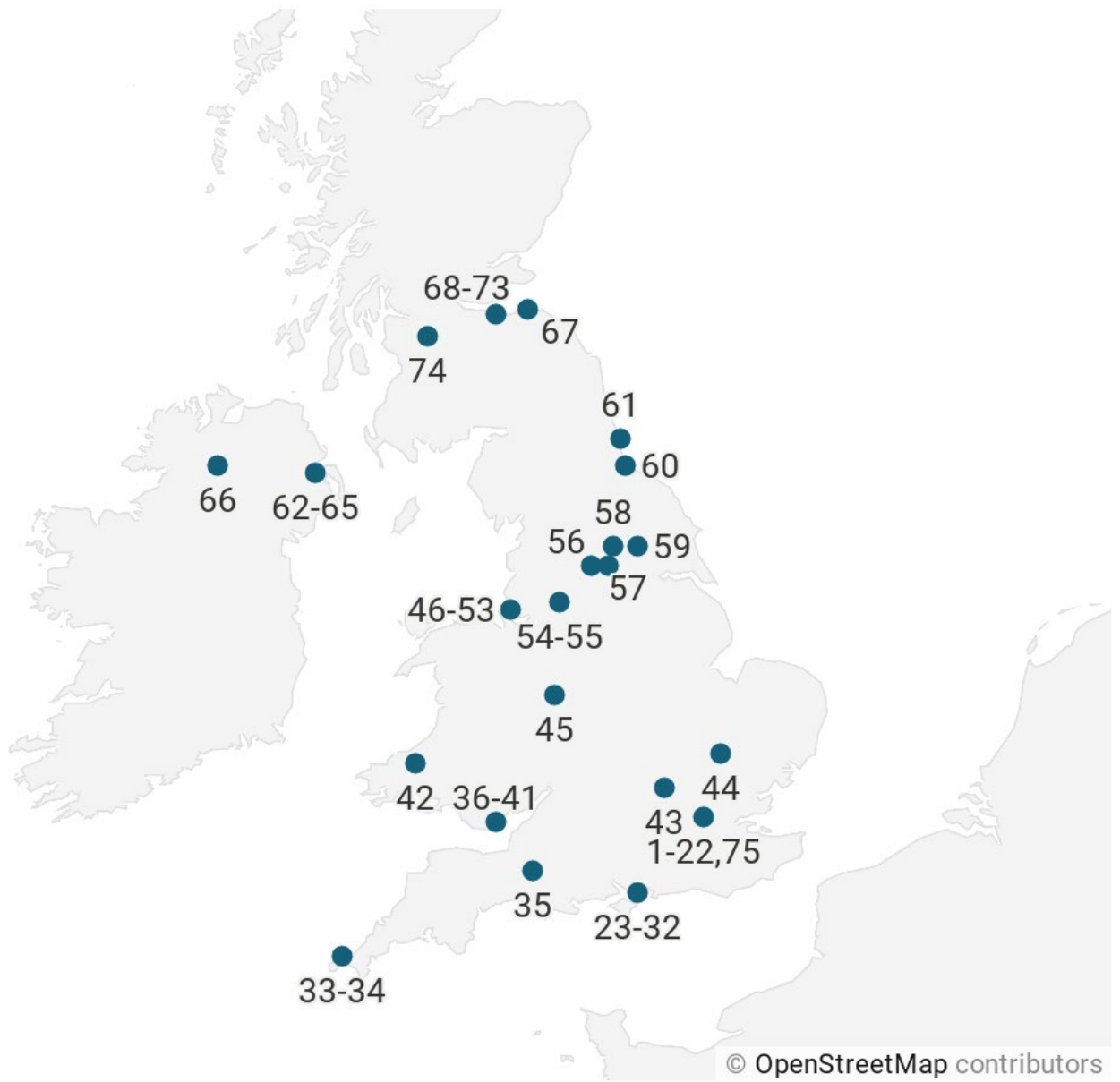
This is the third Museum Partnership Report and focuses on collection sharing activities of [22 national museums, covering 75 sites](#). It covers the financial year 2019/20.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-mendoza-review-an-independent-review-of-museums-in-england>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategic-review-of-dcms-sponsored-museums>

Figure 1: The 75 sites of the 22 national museums included in this report ([click here to see an interactive map of sites](#))



### **British Library**

- 1. British Library, London
- 58. British Library, Boston Spa

### **2. British Museum**

### **Imperial War Museums**

- 3. Imperial War Museum, London
- 4. Churchill War Rooms
- 5. HMS Belfast
- 44. Imperial War Museum, Duxford
- 54. Imperial War Museum, North

### **6. National Gallery**

### **8. National Portrait Gallery**

### **21. Sir John Soane's Museum**

### **22. Horniman Museum**

### **Natural History Museum**

- 7. Natural History Museum, London
- 43. Natural History Museum at Tring

### **Royal Armouries**

- 9. Royal Armouries, White Tower
- 23. Fort Nelson, Portsmouth
- 57. Royal Armouries, Leeds

### **Royal Museums Greenwich**

- 10. National Maritime Museum
- 11. Queen's House
- 12. *Cutty Sark*
- 13. Royal Observatory, Greenwich

### **Science Museum Group**

- 14. Science Museum, London
- 55. Science and Industry Museum, Manchester
- 56. National Science and Media Museum, Bradford
- 59. National Railway Museum, York
- 61. Locomotion, Shildon

### **Tate**

- 15. Tate Modern
- 16. Tate Britain
- 33. Tate St Ives
- 34. Barbara Hepworth Museum and Gardens
- 53. Tate Liverpool

## **V&A**

- 17. V&A
- 18. V&A Museum of Childhood

## **19. National Army Museum**

### **National Museum of the Royal Navy**

- 24. HMS Victory
- 25. National Museum of the Royal Navy, Portsmouth
- 26. HMS Warrior
- 27. Action Stations
- 28. LCT 7074
- 29. National Marines Museum
- 30. HMS M.33
- 31. Royal Navy Submarine Museum
- 32. Explosion Museum of Firepower
- 35. Fleet Air Arm Museum
- 62. HMS Caroline

### **RAF Museum**

- 20. RAF Museum, London
- 45. RAF Museum, Cosford

### **National Museums Liverpool**

- 46. International Slavery Museum
- 47. Walker Art Gallery
- 48. World Museum
- 49. Lady Lever Art Gallery
- 50. Merseyside Maritime Museum
- 51. Sudley House
- 52. Museum of Liverpool

### **National Museums Scotland**

- 67. National Museum of Flight
- 68. National Museum of Scotland
- 69. National War Museum
- 74. National Museum of Rural Life

### **National Museum Wales**

- 36. National Museum Cardiff
- 37. St. Fagans National Museum of History
- 38. National Waterfront Museum
- 39. Big Pit National Coal Museum
- 40. National Slate Museum
- 41. National Roman Legion Museum
- 42. National Wool Museum

### **National Museums NI**

- 63. Ulster Museum
- 64. Ulster Transport Museum
- 65. Ulster Folk Museum
- 66. Ulster American Folk Park

## **National Galleries Scotland**

70. Scottish National Gallery
71. Modern One
72. Modern Two
73. Scottish National Portrait Gallery

## **75. Wallace Collection**

### **In numerical order**

1. British Library, London
2. British Museum
3. Imperial War Museum, London
4. Churchill War Museum
5. HMS Belfast
6. National Gallery
7. Natural History Museum, London
8. National Portrait Gallery
9. Royal Armouries, White Tower
10. National Maritime Museum
11. Queen's House
12. Cutty Sark
13. Royal Observatory, Greenwich
14. Science Museum
15. Tate Modern
16. Tate Britain
17. V&A
18. V&A Museum of Childhood
19. National Army Museum
20. RAF Museum, London
21. Sir John Soane's Museum
22. Horniman Museum
23. Fort Nelson, Portsmouth
24. HMS Victory
25. National Museum of the Royal Navy, Portsmouth
26. HMS Warrior
27. Action Stations
28. LCT 7074
29. National Marines Museum
30. HMS M.33
31. Royal Navy Submarine Museum
32. Explosion Museum of Firepower
33. Tate St Ives
34. Barbara Hepworth Museum and Gardens
35. Fleet Air Arm Museum
36. National Museum Cardiff
37. St. Fagans National Museum of History
38. National Waterfront Museum
39. Big Pit National Coal Museum

40. National Slate Museum
41. National Roman Legion Museum
42. National Wool Museum
43. Natural History Museum at Tring
44. Imperial War Museum, Duxford
45. RAF Museum, Cosford
46. International Slavery Museum
47. Walker Art Gallery
48. World Museum
49. Lady Lever Art Gallery
50. Merseyside Maritime Museum
51. Sudley House
52. Museum of Liverpool
53. Tate Liverpool
54. Imperial War Museum, North
55. Science + Industry Museum
56. National Science + Media Museum
57. Royal Armouries, Leeds
58. British Library, Boston Spa
59. National Railway Museum
60. National Museum of the Royal Navy, Hartlepool
61. Locomotion
62. HMS Caroline
63. Ulster Museum
64. Ulster Transport Museum
65. Ulster Folk Museum
66. Ulster American Folk Park
67. National Museum of Flight
68. National Museum of Scotland
69. National War Museum
70. Scottish National Gallery
71. Modern One
72. Modern Two
73. Scottish National Portrait Gallery
74. National Museum of Rural Life
75. Wallace Collection



# Introduction

Previous iterations of this report have demonstrated how the national museums increase public access to their collections both in the UK and around the world through collaboration and partnerships. As with the 2018/2019 survey, the 2019/2020 survey has focused on collection sharing activities - including loans for display, loans for research, acquisitions and touring exhibitions. Further details on the survey can be seen in Appendix 2. The data collected here demonstrates the extent to which the national collection is used outside of the institutions in which it is usually housed. However, this is only one aspect of the partnership work that museums undertake. There are also research and academic partnerships, specialist networks, staff training programmes and exchanges to name just a few. Our intention is to undertake a broader survey in 2020/21 to incorporate these other areas, giving a fuller picture of the range of national museum's activities.

It should also be noted that this survey captures data on activities between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020. It therefore is not anticipated that the full impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and associated measures will be seen in this report. However, some museums did report cancellations or postponement of projects towards the end of the reporting period. Lockdown, restrictions on international travel and social distancing are expected to have had a devastating impact on museum lending and borrowing and other collection sharing activity. Closure will have undoubtedly had an impact, along with capacity issues relating to staff furlough and redundancies. These issues will not just affect the national museums, but also their partner organisations across the country and around the world. However, museums have not been dormant and many have found innovative and new ways to engage with their partners. This will be explored in detail in the 2020/2021 report which will not only report on collection sharing activity, but will also cover other partnership activities.

**In 2019/20 the national museums undertook 2,290 loans of 71,205 objects, which were seen by at least 35.7 million people.**

**A further 499,973 objects went on loan to institutions for research purposes.**

|                                                                                                               | 2017/18<br>(17 museums surveyed) | 2018/19<br>(22 museums surveyed ) | 2019/20<br>(22 museums surveyed) | Difference from previous year |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| No. of objects lent out by Nationals for display (UK + International, long and short term loans)              | 69,501                           | 68,049                            | 71,205                           | +4.4%                         |
| No. of venues that Nationals lent to for display (UK + International, long and short term loans) <sup>3</sup> | 2,110                            | 2,049                             | 2,290                            | +10.5%                        |
| No. of people that have seen loans out for display (UK + International)                                       | 32.9 million                     | 32.8 million                      | 35.7 million                     | +8%                           |
| No. of objects lent out by Nationals for research (UK + International)                                        | 370,982                          | 316,064                           | 499,973                          | +36.8%                        |
| No. of institutions that Nationals lent to for research (UK + International)                                  | 6,777                            | 6,314                             | 6,423                            | +1.7%                         |

The numbers above show an increase in lending activity although numbers remain broadly on par with previous years. The total number of loans, and objects lent has increased along with total reported visitor numbers.

#### CASE STUDY

The Wallace Collection undertook its first ever loan out in 2019. Although traditionally considered to be a closed collection, the terms of Lady Wallace's bequest do not expressly forbid lending or borrowing. The Board of Trustees and the Director successfully applied to the Charity Commission for an Order which has granted the Wallace Collection the power to lend, a decision supported by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). The Wallace Collection will now join other national museums in lending works from its collection, both within the UK and internationally.

The decision to lend works on a temporary basis will enable the Wallace Collection to develop exciting new collaborations with museums across the UK and internationally, expanding public access to the museum's exceptional collection and encouraging new

<sup>3</sup> This is not unique venues. Total includes multiple loans to the same venue.

audiences to engage with its treasures. It will also provide exciting opportunities for scholarly research and enable the museum to remain a centre of curatorial excellence.

## **Funding**

There are no significant changes to the funding landscape described in both the 2017/18 and 2018/19 Museum Partnership Reports. Lending activity remains largely resourced by the national museums themselves, with additional project funding available for example from the Weston Loan Programme, Arts Council England and National Lottery Heritage Fund. Support for exhibition displays has also been available through the Museums and Galleries Exhibitions Tax Relief<sup>4</sup>.

### **CASE STUDY**

#### **National Museums Scotland, Ancient Egypt and East Asia National Programme**

With funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, this two-year project extended the reach and impact of the Ancient Egypt Rediscovered, Exploring East Asia and Art of Ceramics galleries beyond the walls of the National Museum of Scotland. It supported engagement with related collections in museums across Scotland through touring exhibitions, new displays, digital resources, skills development and enhanced interpretation and audience development.

The touring exhibition, *Discovering Ancient Egypt*, incorporating objects from local collections at each venue, travelled to Hawick Museum, Montrose Museum, the Baird Institute, Cumnock and Perth Museum and Art Gallery. The exhibition supported museum development at Hawick Museum and Montrose Museum through new display cases, provided by Weston Loan Programme with support from the Art Fund, and the creation of permanent displays of their ancient Egyptian collections.

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<sup>4</sup> Further information on the Museums and Galleries Exhibition Tax Relief can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/hmrc-internal-manuals/museums-and-galleries-exhibition-tax-relief>

# 1. Sharing collections in the UK

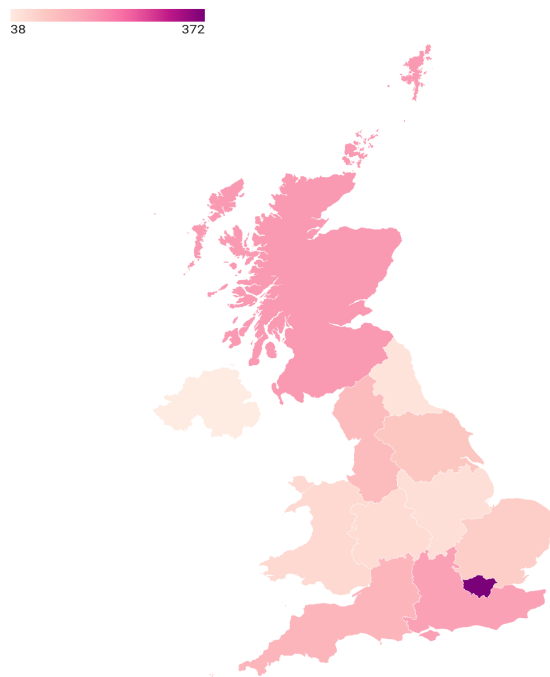
In 2019/20, the national museums undertook 1,534 loans out of 59,870 objects to institutions across the UK. This includes both long and short term loans. Objects were seen by over 22 million people. As with previous surveys, visitor figures were not available for all of the loans so the real figure is actually much higher. Some loans go to ticketed exhibitions, whereas others were part of unticketed displays where there is no record of the number of visitors. Visitor figures were provided for 19.6% of UK loans.

|                                                                                             | 2017/18<br>(17 museums surveyed) | 2018/19<br>(22 museums surveyed) | 2019/20<br>(22 museums surveyed) |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Total number of <b>loans out</b> (long and short term) by nationals for <b>display (UK)</b> | 1,474                            | 1,406                            | 1,534                            |
| Total number of <b>objects loaned out</b> by nationals for <b>display (UK)</b>              | 60,022                           | 61,533                           | 59,870                           |
| How many people have seen the national collection on loan (UK only)                         | 18,400,000                       | 18,524,858                       | 22,093,348                       |

Figure 2: Loans out received by region within the UK

[Click here to see a map showing how many loans \(long and short term\) travelled to the different regions of the UK:](#)

Total UK loans out received by region 2019/20



Created with Datawrapper

The map shows that the regions in receipt of the greatest number of loans out from the 22 museums surveyed (long and short term) were London (372) followed by Scotland (180) and then South East England (169).

## 1.1 Short-term loans UK

For the purposes of the survey, short term loans are identified as being one-off loans for exhibition or display, for a period of 18 months or less. Approximately 11.5% of short loans out in the UK were part of touring exhibitions organised by the national museums. A total number of 74 UK venues hosted touring exhibitions which originated from national museums.

The majority of short term loans are reactive, so the national museum responds to a specific request for an object/s. Decisions to lend are based on a number of factors, including the condition of the object in question, its display requirements and the capacity of the lending organisation to facilitate the loan in terms of their resources. The lending organisation often has to undertake conservation work to prepare objects for loan, packing or framing and various administrative procedures. The borrower must be able to provide adequate environmental and security arrangements for the object/s on loan as stipulated in the lending organisations conditions of loan.

The average number of objects per UK loan in 2019/20 was 39 compared to 43 in 2018/19. However the majority of loans consist of just one or two objects (sometimes 'star' items), intended to supplement an exhibition or display on a specific topic.

### CASE STUDY

**The National Portrait Gallery's COMING HOME project lent 20 works in focus to 20 places during this time (although the last two partner displays had only just opened when the programme was paused due to the pandemic). Examples of portraits that 'came home' included David Beckham to Whipps Cross hospital imaging department, Maxine Peake to the foyer at the Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester and Stormzy to the Museum of Croydon. All the portraits who 'came home' were of people who have a strong resonance with place and funds were available for local communities to explore 'what home meant to them'. Over half a million people saw the works and 11,519 people participated in programmes. COMING HOME has been made possible by the DCMS, generous contributions from the Thompson Family Charitable Trust and funds raised at the Gallery's Portrait Gala in 2017.**

The figures show a decrease of 12.6% in the number of UK short term loans from 2018/19 although the total number of loans out in the UK (including long loans) has increased. The

visitor figures for short term loans out also reveal a decrease, however it should be noted that visitor figures were only provided for 29.1% of short term loans in 2019/20, compared to 56% in 2018/19.

|                                                                                                                                            | 2017/18<br>(17 museums surveyed) | 2018/19<br>(22 museums surveyed ) | 2019/20 (22 museums surveyed) | Difference from the previous year |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Total number of <b>objects loaned out</b> as <b>short-term loans</b> by nationals for <b>display (UK)</b>                                  | 7,129                            | 10,576                            | 9,517                         | -11.1%                            |
| Total number of <b>institutions/venues</b> that objects were loaned out to as <b>short-term loans</b> by nationals for <b>display (UK)</b> | 652                              | 722                               | 641                           | -12.6%                            |
| Percentage of <b>short-term</b> loans where visitor numbers were provided (UK)                                                             | 43%                              | 56%                               | 29.1%                         | -26.9%                            |
| Total number of people who have seen the national collection on <b>short-term</b> loan <b>(UK)</b>                                         | 11,000,000                       | 12,070,057                        | 7,923,320                     | -52.3%                            |

## CASE STUDY

### Sefton's Hidden Histories: celebrating Sefton Borough of Culture 2020 at the Atkinson

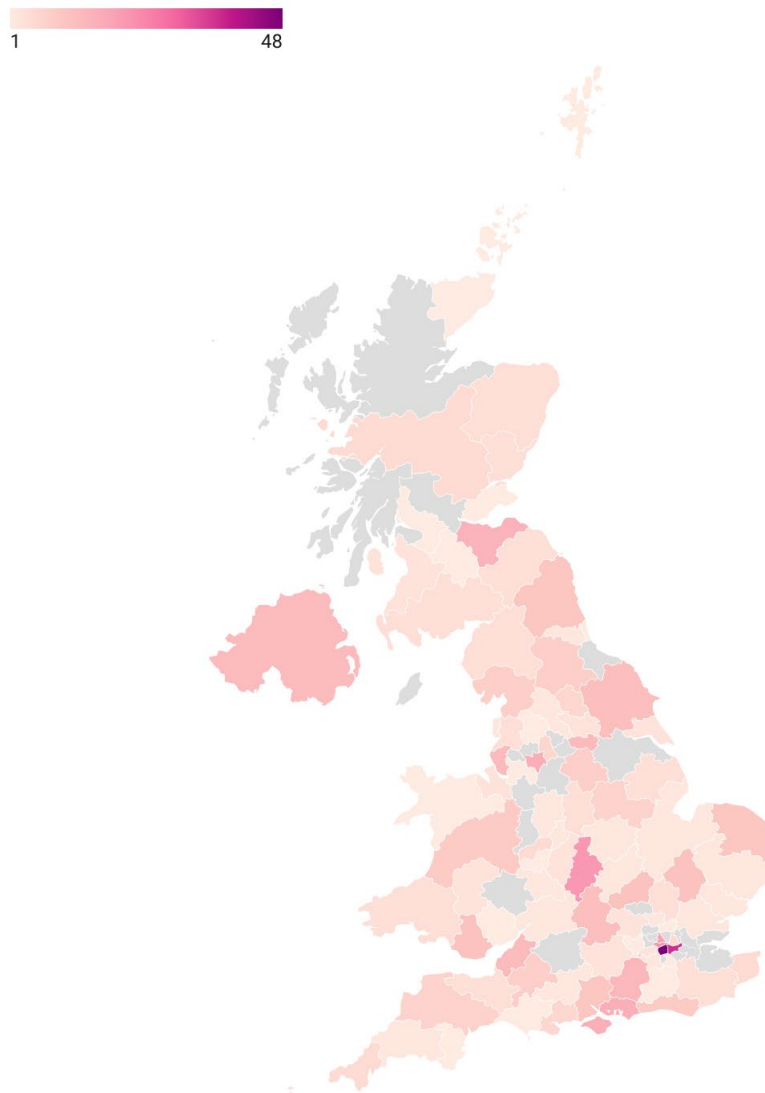
National Museums Liverpool (NML) has ongoing relationships with regional museums in the North West providing access to its collections through regular loans. NML staff also support museum staff with guidance and advice on collections care and conservation. These partnership loans continue to strengthen NML's ongoing relationships with regional museums.

In 2020, NML provided short term loans from its social history collections to the Atkinson in Southport as part of the celebration of Sefton's year as Borough of Culture in the Liverpool City Region. The items demonstrated national and regional significance and told personal stories that formed part of a bigger narrative. Each story was recorded by the donor and museum staff and visitors could listen to the stories in the special exhibition Sefton's Hidden Histories which opened in January 2020. The exhibition attracted nearly 11,000 visitors before closing early due to the first national lockdown in March 2020.

Figure 3: UK short loans out received by postal area

[Click here to see a map showing the distribution of short term loans throughout the UK in 2019/20 split by postal area.](#)

### Short loans out received by postal area 2019/20



The region which received the most short term loans is Greater London (194) followed by South East England (87) then North West England (59). The postal areas receiving the greatest number of short term loans were all in London: SW, WC and SE. This is most likely explained by the presence of large museums in these areas: for example the V&A, Science Museum and Natural History Museum are all situated within the SW postcode. The British Museum is situated within the WC postcode as are The National Gallery and National Portrait Gallery, while Tate Modern, The National Maritime Museum and The Horniman Museum and Gardens are all within the SE postcode.

## 1.2 UK partnership and touring exhibitions

**In 2019/20, the national museums sent 35 unique exhibitions to 74 venues in the UK, which were seen by more than 2 million people**

Touring exhibitions in the UK can increase and diversify audiences, generate income (in some circumstances), enable collaboration between organisations and raise the profile of both the organising and host museum.

### CASE STUDY

#### **British Library, Treasures on Tour**

**In Autumn 2019, the British Library launched its Treasures on Tour spotlight loan programme. Generously supported by the Helen Hamlyn Trust, the Library is lending collection item(s) to 10 venues across the UK over two years, in order to build new relationships with arts and heritage organisations and their local audiences, particularly in areas where the Library has not previously had high levels of engagement. Each loan comes with a £5000 fund towards loan costs which can be used to cover anything from transport to publicity and events.**

**In connection with the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of George Eliot's birth, the Library's autograph manuscript of Middlemarch was loaned to Coventry and Nuneaton between November 2019 and March 2020. As both places have historical connections to George Eliot, the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum and Nuneaton Museum & Art Gallery decided to share the loan, with it spending two months at each museum. This was the first time that Nuneaton Museum had borrowed an item from a national collection and thanks to the positive experience of working with the British Library and the popularity of the exhibit, they are planning other loans from national museums in future. This is a great testament to the ability of the programme to inspire further collaborations.**

There are several different operational models for touring exhibitions. Some charge a hire fee to recoup costs, others are free of charge with the borrower covering direct costs of transport and installation. Sometimes touring exhibitions only contain objects from the organising national museum, however sometimes museums borrow objects from other museums, organisations and individuals to enhance and complement the exhibition. These objects then become part of the package that is toured. For the purposes of this survey, these objects are counted as 'loans in' as they have been borrowed by the organising national museum. Sometimes touring exhibitions are organised in collaboration with another organisation. Some tours consist of one spotlight loan, which is different from a regular loan as they are often accompanied by interpretation and other display elements prepared by the National museum. Often national museums will tour 'star' objects from



their collections, in order to engage new audiences and ensure these items are seen outside of the museum itself.

#### **CASE STUDY**

**Desire, Love, Identity: LGBTQ histories, The British Museum.**

**Desire, love, identity: exploring LGBTQ histories was the first exhibition at the British Museum to focus on same-sex love and desire and gender diversity. It coincided with the 50th anniversary of the partial decriminalisation of homosexuality in July 2017.**

**With support from the Dorset Foundation, the British Museum was able to develop a revised and expanded version of the exhibition that visited five venues around the UK. The exhibition was adapted by each venue so that it connected to local histories and communities. 260,000 people saw the exhibition on tour.**

### **1.3 Long term loans UK**

For the purpose of this survey, a long term loan is identified as a loan for display lasting longer than 18 months, although museums themselves have various internal definitions for long term loans. Long loans can be difficult to define, with some residing at the borrowing venue for 100 years or more. It is important to note that figures include the long loan out of the V&A Wedgwood Collection to the World of Wedgwood totalling approximately 38,000 objects and a new addition this year of the long loan in of 114,000 objects from the Wellcome Trust to the Science Museum Group (SMG). The loan makes up a large percentage of the collections on display in the Science Museum Medicine Galleries and the SMG has the authority to loan these out on behalf of the Wellcome Trust. These loans still meet the definition of a loan but should not be viewed as new activity. Often long loans are reviewed and renewed on an annual basis and the total length of loan will depend on the type of object, the purpose of the loan and any conservation requirements the object may have.

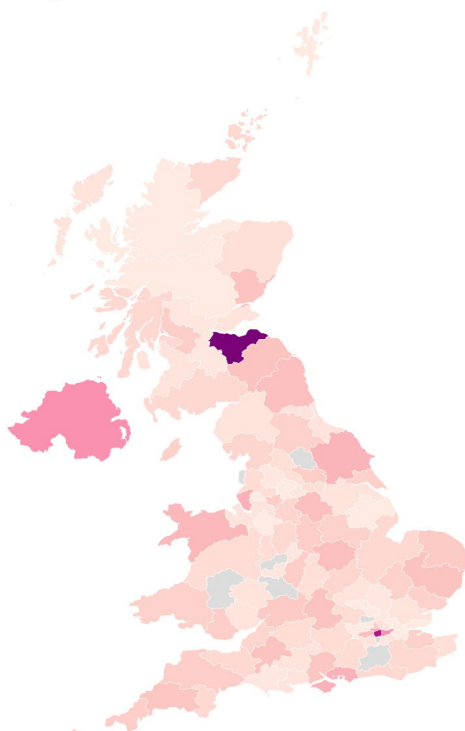
|                                                                                                   | 2017/18<br>(17 museums surveyed) | 2018/19<br>(22 museums surveyed) | 2019/20<br>(22 museums surveyed) |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Total number of <b>long term loans out (UK)</b>                                                   | 818                              | 677                              | 893                              |
| Total number of <b>objects loaned out as long-term loans</b> by nationals for <b>display (UK)</b> | 52,891                           | 50,898                           | 50,353                           |
| Average <b>length</b> of loan in years of <b>long term loan (UK)</b>                              | 15 years                         | 18 years                         | 13 years                         |

Museums in Greater London received the highest number of long loans (19.9%), followed by Scotland (15.3%) and the South West (9.4%). The national collections which had the highest numbers of long term loans out in 2019/20 were the Science Museum Group, the V&A, National Museums Scotland and the National Museum of the Royal Navy which may provide some explanation for the regional trends here.

Figure 4: UK long loans out received, by postal area

[Click here to see a map showing the distribution of long-term loans from national museums throughout the UK in 2019/20, split by postal area.](#)

**Long loans by postal area 2019/20**



Map data: © Open Door Logistics · Created with Datawrapper

## 1.4 Who borrows from the national collection?

The national museums lend their collections to a range of museums and cultural organisations. Independent museums are the largest subset of museums in the sector<sup>5</sup> and received the largest number of both short term and long-term loans (436), followed by Local Authority museums (375), then the nationals themselves (245). This is the same as seen in previous years.

The category 'other' captures organisations not captured under the other definitions. This includes businesses, hospitals, trusts, charities and societies. A total of 166 loans went out to borrowers under the category of 'other', demonstrating the range of non-museum partnerships that the national museums engage with. For example, as part of their 'Artemisia Visits' project, the National Gallery lent their Artemisia Gentileschi self portrait to Pocklington Group Practice – a GP surgery in the East Yorkshire market town of Pocklington that lies between York and Hull. This sort of activity reaches new audiences, including those who may not typically visit a museum.

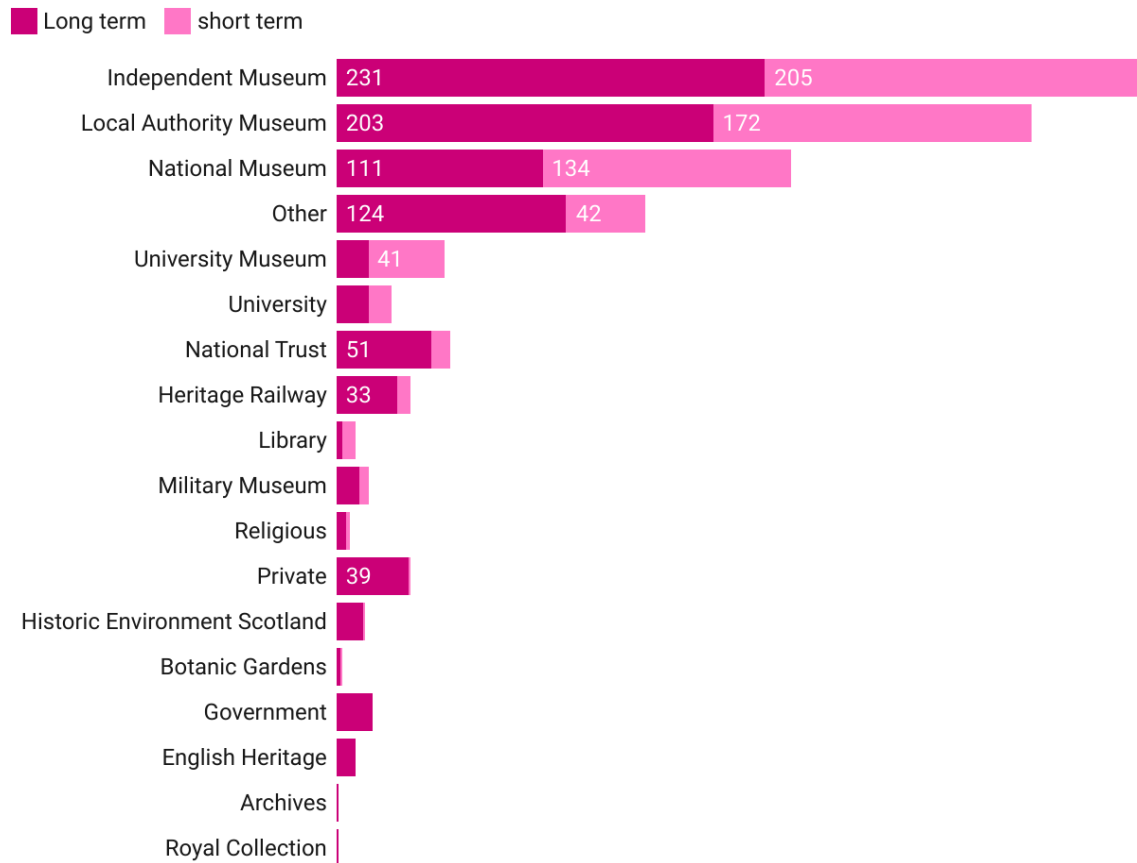
Figure 5: Types of institution which borrow from the national collection

[Click here to see a chart which shows the type of UK institution borrowing national museum objects on a short-term and long-term basis in 2019/20.](#)

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<sup>5</sup> Independent museums now make up at least 71.5% of the total UK sector.  
<http://museweb.dcs.bbk.ac.uk/static/pdf/MappingMuseumsReportMarch2020.pdf>

## Type of UK Institutions borrowing from the national collection in 2019/20



*'Other' includes loans to businesses, charities, trusts, societies and associations not described in other categories.*

Created with Datawrapper

## 2. Sharing collections internationally

The national museums lend and borrow collections internationally for a variety of reasons. Their own diverse collections are of interest to museums and audiences all over the world. Borrowing from abroad also gives UK audiences opportunities to see objects they may not otherwise have a chance to see, and to learn about other cultures and history.

In 2019/20 the national museums sent 756 loans comprising 11,335 objects out on loan globally on either a short term or long term basis. 508 loans went to European countries. Visitor figures were available for 18% of the loans and suggest that at least 13.6 million people saw the national collection internationally.

|                                                                                               | 2017/18<br>(17 museums surveyed) | 2018/19<br>(22 museums surveyed) | 2019/20<br>(22 museums surveyed) | Difference from previous year |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Total number of <b>loans out</b> by nationals for <b>display (international)</b>              | 638                              | 643                              | 756                              | +14.9%                        |
| Total number of <b>objects loaned out</b> by nationals for <b>display (international)</b>     | 9,279                            | 6,496                            | 11,335                           | +42.7%                        |
| Total number of <b>loans out</b> by nationals for <b>display (Europe)</b>                     | 381                              | 404                              | 508                              | +20.5%                        |
| No. of loans out where visitor numbers were provided ( <b>international</b> )                 | 30%                              | 16%                              | 18%                              | +2%                           |
| How many people (at least) have seen the national collection on loan ( <b>international</b> ) | 14.4 million                     | 14.3 million                     | 13.6 million                     | -5.2%                         |

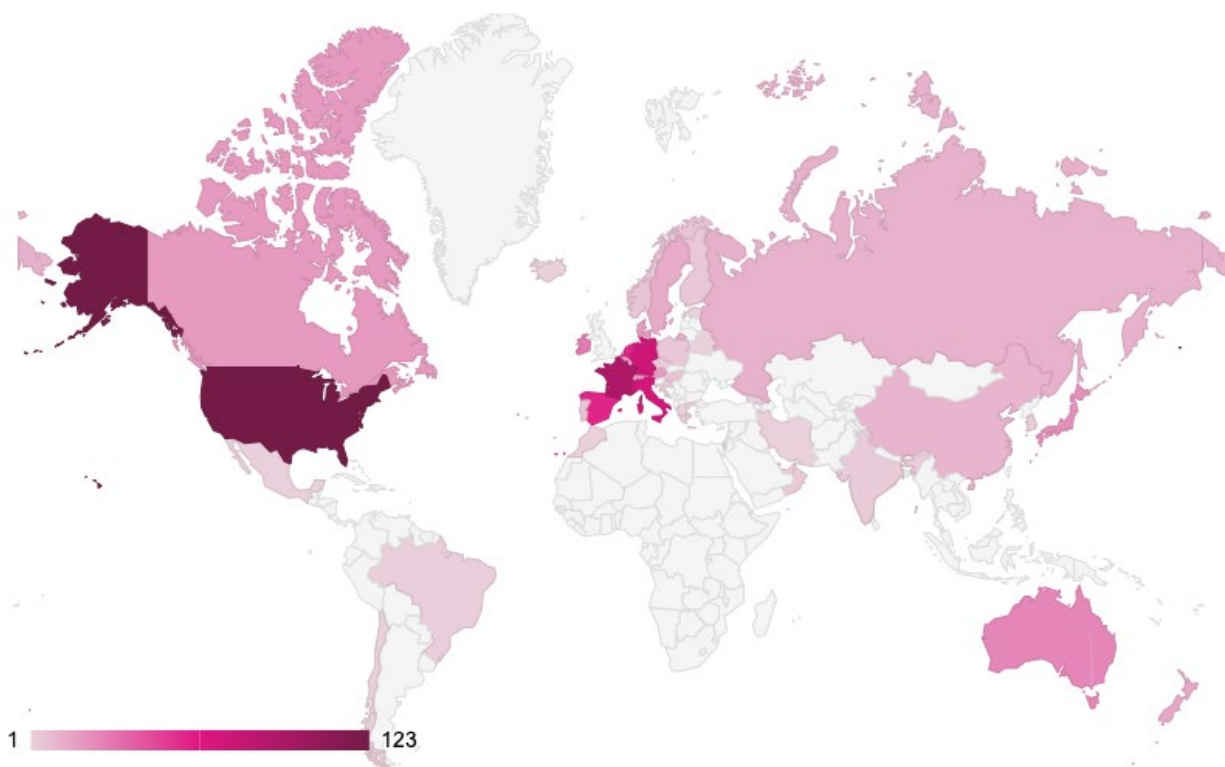
The top 5 countries in receipt of loans (long and short term) from the national museums were the USA (16.3%), France (11.8%), Germany (9.7%), Italy (9%) and The Netherlands (7.4%). Spain (14.5%), Australia (11.4%) and the USA (10.6%) received the highest numbers of objects. This is similar to 2018/19 where the top 5 countries in receipt of loans were USA, France, Germany, Italy and Spain. In fact, Spain is in 6th place for 2019/20 whilst the Netherlands occupied this position in 2018/19. It is likely that this is indicative of both capacity (countries where there is a developed museum infrastructure and ability to meet the cost of borrowing) but also existing relationships between museums. The data shows that museums often lend to and borrow from the same venues as they have done in previous years and are likely to lend to organisations where there is an affinity between

collection types. This may also help explain why some areas, for example some countries in Africa and South America are not regular borrowers or lenders of display loans.

In 2019/20, 1,647 objects from the national collection travelled to Spain, 1,299 to Australia and 1,196 to the USA.

**Figure 6:** International short term loans out.

[Click here to see a map which shows the international destination of short and long-term loans out](#)



## 2.1 International short term loans

Short term loans make up the majority of international lending. 88% of international loans were sent on a short term basis. The USA, France and then Germany received the greatest number of short term loans.

|                                                                                           | <b>2017/18</b><br>(17 museums) | <b>2018/19</b><br>(22 museums) | <b>2019/20</b><br>(22 museums) | <b>Difference</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Total number of <b>short term loans out for display (international)</b>                   | 524                            | 575                            | 665                            | +13.5%            |
| Percentage of international loans out for display by Nationals that were short-term loans | 82%                            | 90%                            | 88%                            | -2%               |
| Total number of <b>short term loans out for display (Europe)</b>                          | 338                            | 366                            | 456                            | +19.7%            |
| Total number of <b>short term loans out for display (non-Europe)</b>                      | 186                            | 209                            | 208                            | -0.4%             |

The data shows an increase in the number of loans travelling to Europe. While the UK left the EU at the end of January 2020 (so within this reporting period), the transition period lasted until the end of December 2020; while the prospect of leaving the EU did not appear to have significantly impacted on demand for loans from UK national museums, the pandemic was the more important factor as it stopped loans taking place for a period. The 2020/21 Partnership report will report on this. It is also worth noting that many international loans are planned more than one year in advance. It is therefore more likely that any impact of EU Exit on lending and borrowing will be evidenced in future iterations of this report.

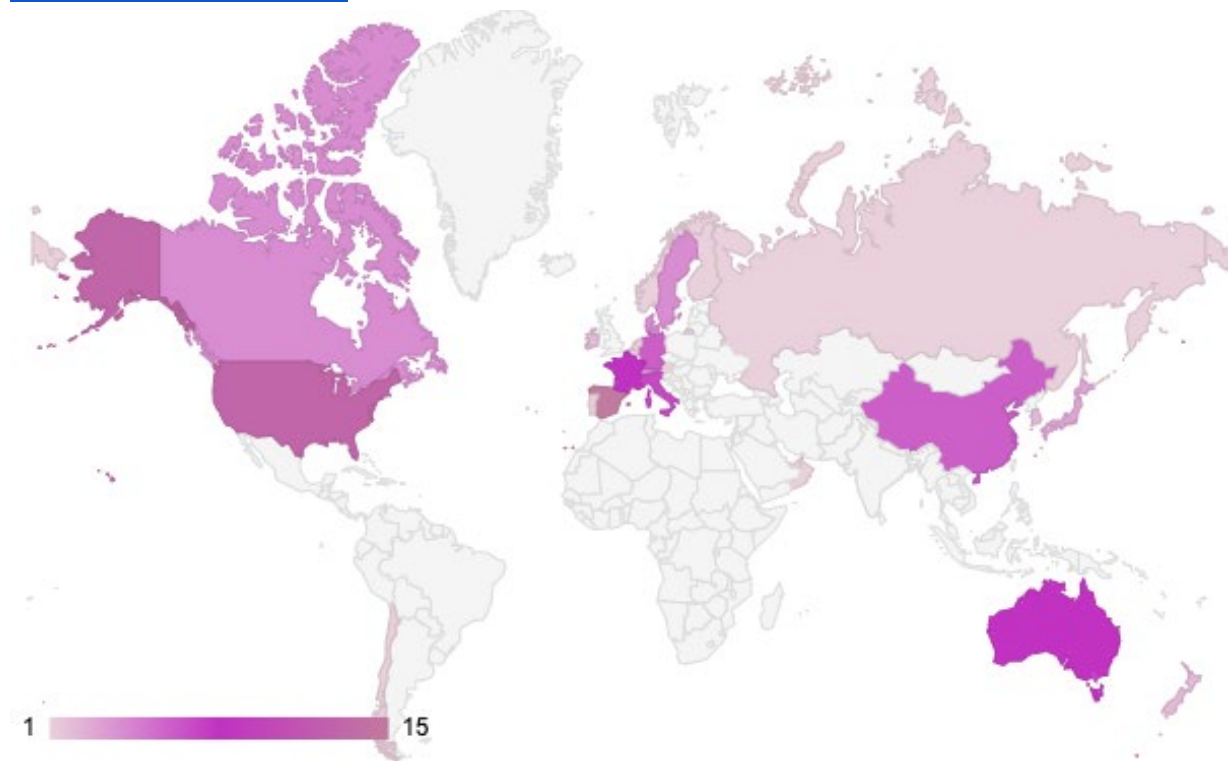
## 2.2 International touring exhibitions

As with UK touring exhibitions, there are different models for touring exhibitions internationally. Exhibitions sometimes only contain objects from the organising national museum, sometimes they are supplemented by loans from other organisations and individuals and sometimes they are co-curated in partnership with the host venue. Sometimes they are exhibitions first shown at the national museum itself and sometimes they are created specifically for tour. In fact in 2019/20, the national museums borrowed a total of 3,189 objects to supplement their UK and international touring exhibitions.

The national museums toured exhibitions to 100 international venues during 2019/20. These exhibitions were viewed by over 3 million visitors. The top 5 countries receiving touring exhibitions organised by the national museums were Spain (15%), USA (13%), Australia (8%), France (8%) and Italy (7%).

**Figure 7: International touring exhibitions**

[Click here to see a map which shows which countries hosted touring exhibitions organised by the national museums:](#)



### CASE STUDY

#### The British Museum, International Touring:

In 2019/20 the British Museum displayed Egyptian mummies in Montreal; an exhibition on the Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca in Amsterdam; and Italian Renaissance drawings in Macao. A collaboration with the State Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg showed treasures of Assyrian art from the British Museum collection for the first time in Russia.

The “A History of the World in 100 Objects” touring exhibition reached its two millionth visitor in 2019. Seen by more than 217,000 visitors at the Hong Kong Heritage Museum in 2019, the tour has previously travelled to Abu Dhabi, Australia, China, France, Japan and Taiwan.



## 2.3 International long term loans

Long term loans (18 months or more) accounted for 11.8% of the national museums' international lending. In 2019/20 the museums had 89 long term loans in place consisting of 487 objects. The majority (18%) of international long loans were to the USA, followed by The Republic of Ireland (15.7%) and The Netherlands (11.2%)

|                                                                                          | <b>2017/18</b><br>(17<br>museums) | <b>2018/19</b><br>(22<br>museums) | <b>2019/20</b><br>(22<br>museums) | <b>Difference</b><br><b>from the</b><br><b>previous</b><br><b>year</b> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Total number of <b>long term loans out for display (international)</b>                   | 97                                | 62                                | 89                                | +30.3%                                                                 |
| Percentage of international loans out for display by Nationals that were long-term loans | 18%                               | 9.6%                              | 11.8%                             | +2.2%                                                                  |
| Total number of objects lent out lent out internationally for long term display          | 993                               | 303                               | 487                               | +37.8%                                                                 |

### 3. Sharing collections for research

As well as lending items for display, some of the national museums also lend items from their collection for research purposes. The majority of research loans come from collections of scientific interest, such as The Natural History Museum. In fact, 99% of research loans out in 2019/20 came from the Natural History Museum. This research supports a wide range of disciplines across the arts and sciences. The vast majority of research loans in and out are between the national museums and universities and research organisations. The number of research loans demonstrates the contribution made by the national museums to research and development, and their participation in global networks and the scientific community.

**A total of 6,423 loans were active in 2018/19 for research purposes, comprising at least 499,973 objects.**

|                                                                            | 2017/18<br>(17<br>museums) | 2018/19<br>(22<br>museums) | 2019/20<br>(22<br>museums) | Difference |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------|
| Total number of <b>loans out</b> by nationals for <b>research</b>          | 6,316                      | 6,314                      | 6,423                      | +1.7%      |
| Total number of <b>objects loaned out</b> by nationals for <b>research</b> | 315,915                    | 316,064                    | 499,973                    | +36.8%     |

The national museums also borrowed objects for their own research purposes. There were 270 research loans in during 2019/20 of 32,366 objects. The country which lent the greatest number of items was Germany with 184 loans consisting of 12,053 objects.

#### CASE STUDY

##### Natural History Museum beetle loans

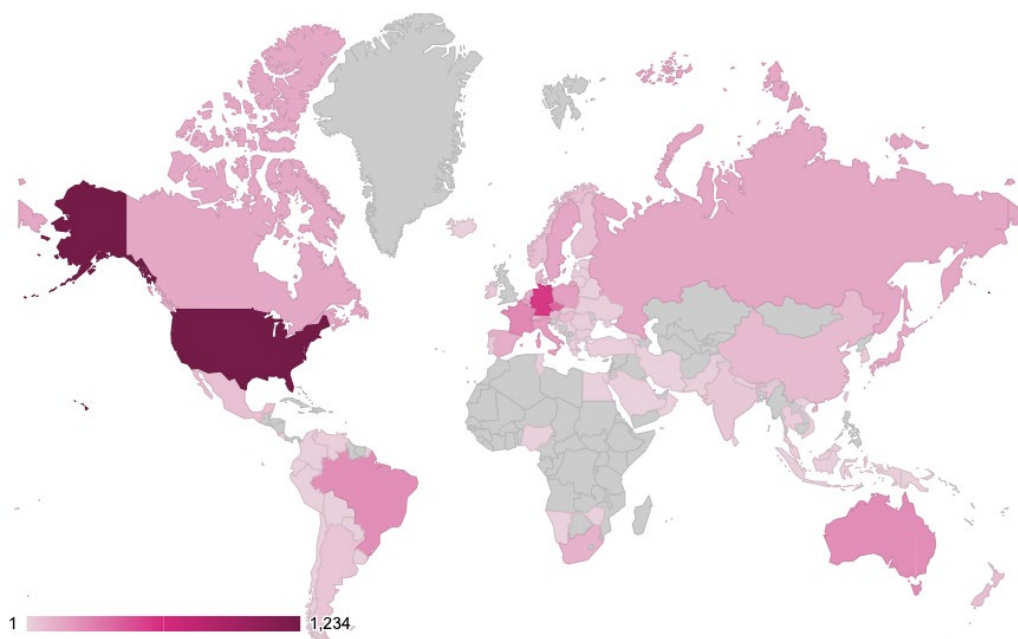
The Natural History Museum (NHM) issued 344 loans of 26,061 specimens in 2019-2020 with an African focus, including 36 loans of 9,435 specimens of Afrotropical beetles. The smallest loan was a single specimen, but the largest was 2,562 chafer beetles from Africa, lent to an expert in Prague. These specimens are loaned to experts for identification, supporting their research and improving knowledge of African fauna, including describing new species and providing baseline data to assess environmental and global change through time.

As a result of these loans, 276 new species of beetle were described during that time period. Highlights included:

- **Darwin’s Beetle:** Eight species of jewel beetle new to science collected by Henry Walter Bates in the 1850s (5 species) and by Charles Darwin on the Beagle Voyage in the 1830s (3 species). One of these has been named *Taphrocerus darwini* after its collector. They were described from loan number 2019-851 by Jaroslav Marek in the Czech Republic.
- **Greta Thunberg’s Beetle:** A new featherwing beetle named *Nelloptodes gretae* after climate activist Greta Thunberg described by Michael Darby.
- **Bob Marley’s Beetle:** A beach-inhabiting click beetle endemic to Jamaica, collected by Malcolm Cameron in 1908 and loaned to USA as loan 2019-319: described as *Platyparadonus marleyi* Etzler & Ivie, 2019, “in honour of Robert ‘Bob’ Nesta Marley, to recognize his importance in spreading Reggae music throughout the world, and to recognize his connection to Jamaica”
- **Giant Longhorn Beetle:** One of the world’s largest longhorn beetles, was described as *Massicus regius* by Russian expert Alexey Miroshnikov from Malaysian material that had been incorrectly identified since 1955, and was sent to Miroshnikov as loan 2019-496: it is truly a ‘long horn beetle’, half the width of a collection drawer!

**Figure 8:** International research loans

[Click here to see a map which shows the international spread of all international research loans out active in 2019/20.](#)



As seen in previous years of reporting, the geographical spread of research loans is wider than that of display loans. 85 countries were in receipt of research loans compared to 49

countries in receipt of display loans. This is most likely reflective of the difference in cost and complexity to borrow items for research compared to display (for example, they are unlikely to require display cases or additional interpretation and are less likely to require a courier).

## 4. Supporting new collections and acquisitions

As well as acquiring objects for their own collections, the national museums also support other UK museums to acquire objects. The majority of this support comes through the administration of purchase funds (for example the Arts Council England/V&A Purchase Grant Fund) or processes (via the Treasure process, Acceptance in Lieu and Cultural Gifts Scheme for example). In 2019/20, 338 acquisitions were supported in the UK, consisting of 1,716 objects.

For example, The Arts Council England/V&A Purchase Grant Fund awarded £727,992 to 97 applications from 68 organisations and supported acquisitions to the value of £2,780,471. National Museums Scotland awarded 55 grants worth £158,554 from the National Fund for Acquisitions supported acquisitions worth £870,875, helping to develop and enhance the collections of 23 organisations in 14 local authorities across Scotland.

The national museums also support acquisitions by acting in an advisory capacity, both formally and informally. It is worth noting that in 2019-20, the V&A advised on export licences for 5,370 objects and advised other funding bodies and government on a further 195 objects which were to be acquired by or displayed at regional museums.

|                                                             | 2017/18<br>(17<br>museums) | 2018/19<br>(22<br>museums<br>) | 2019/20<br>(22<br>museums<br>) | Difference<br>from<br>previous<br>year |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Number of acquisitions                                      | 462                        | 173                            | 338                            | +48.9%                                 |
| Number of organisations in UK receiving acquisition support | 205                        | 122                            | 186                            | +34.4%                                 |

**96% of the acquisitions supported in 2019/20 were received by museums outside of London.**

## **CASE STUDY**

**Saving Treasures; Telling Stories is an National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) funded project which is acquiring archaeological objects for local and national collections, providing training for heritage professionals and volunteers and engaging local communities with their pasts through the funding of community archaeology projects led by local museums throughout Wales.**

**The Saving Treasures; Telling Stories Project is a partnership project between Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales, The Federation of Museums and Art Galleries of Wales (The FED) and the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Wales (PAS Cymru) promoting the portable archaeological heritage of Wales through acquiring finds made by the public.**

## 5. Borrowing collections

The 2019/20 data shows that the national museums also borrow objects from both UK and international organisations for their own displays and exhibitions, demonstrating the reciprocal nature of many partnerships. Strong relationships exist between museums where they repeatedly lend to and borrow from each other. For example both The British Museum and Science Museum Group both lent to and borrowed from Manchester Art Gallery in 2019/20.

The national museums borrowed a total of 131,299 objects in 2019/20 from a total of 1,272 institutions (in the UK and abroad). However, this total includes the Science Museum loan from the Wellcome Trust of 114,000 objects which is explained above. When this number is excluded, the national museums borrowed a total of 17,299 objects. 6,281 objects were borrowed on short term loan and 11,018 on long term loan (excluding the Wellcome Trust loan). This is an increase of 32% on 2018/19.

**In total, the national museums borrowed 131,299 objects from 1,272 institutions for display in 2019/20.**

|                                                                           | 2017/18<br>(17 museums) | 2018/19<br>(22 museums) | 2019/20<br>(22 museums) | Difference from previous year |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Number of objects borrowed by Nationals for display (UK + international)  | 11,524                  | 11,735                  | 131,299                 | +91%                          |
| Number of institutions that Nationals borrowed from (UK + international)  | 1,385                   | 1,199                   | 1,272                   | +5.7%                         |
| Number of objects borrowed by Nationals for research (international)      | 6,122                   | 699                     | 13,107                  | +94.7%                        |
| Number of international museums that Nationals borrowed from for research | 232                     | 7                       | 20                      | +65%                          |
| Number of countries that Nationals borrowed from for research             | 10                      | 5                       | 13                      | +61.5%                        |

The figures show that the number of research loans is less consistent than that seen for display loans. This is most likely due to the fact that a single research loan can contain several thousand specimens.

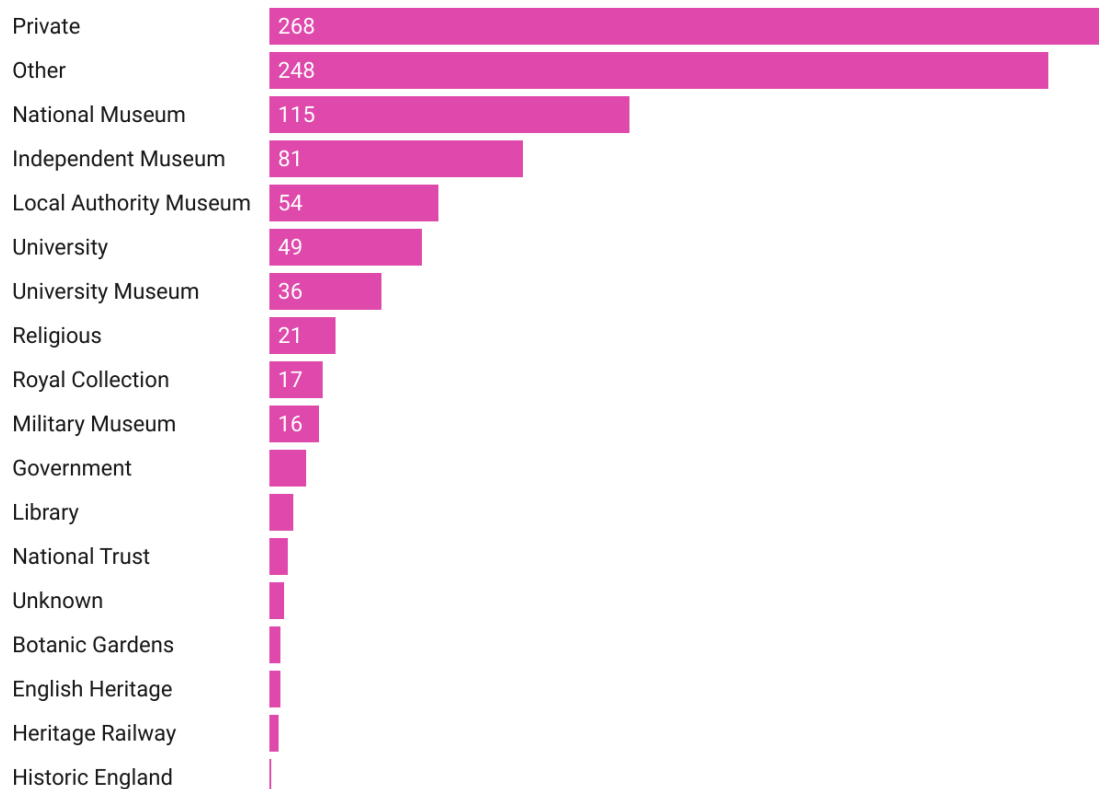
## 5.1 Borrowing from UK-based organisations

In 2019/20 the national museums borrowed a total of 948 loans for display from UK based organisations. 658 of these were on a long term basis, and 290 were on short term loan. The majority of loans in (both long and short term) to national museums were borrowed from private lenders, 28.2% in total. Borrowing from the private individuals enables audiences to see items they may otherwise be unable to and enables museum curators to further their research by having access to items not usually in the public domain. The nationals also borrowed 115 loans from each other, making up 12% of the total.

Figure 9: Types of lender to the national museums

[Click here to see a chart showing the type of organisation the national museums borrowed from in 2019/20.](#)

### Lenders to the national museums 2019/20



Created with Datawrapper

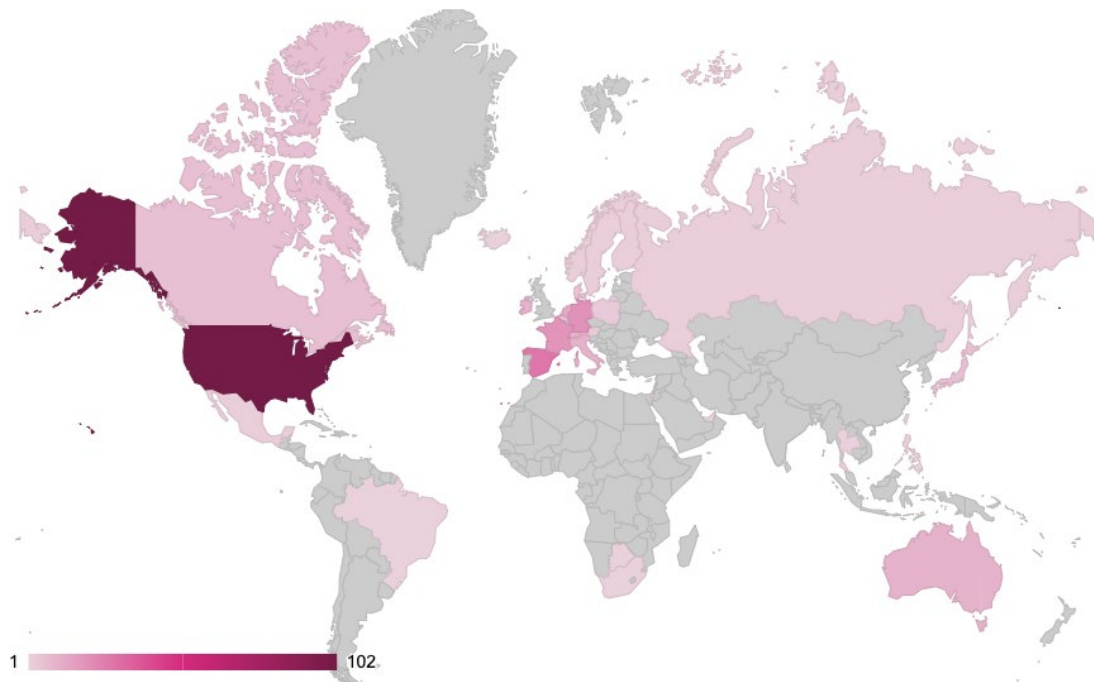


## 5.2 Borrowing from international organisations

The majority of international loans in came from the USA (102 loans), followed by Spain (28 loans) then Germany (20 loans), France (19 loans) and The Netherlands (12 loans). This mirrors the geographical pattern of loans out as described above, again suggesting the reciprocal relationship between many museums across the world. For example, the National Gallery has a formal partnership with the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, USA and has both borrowed from and lent to this institution in 2019/20. As with loans out, there are fewer display loans in from South America, Africa and parts of Asia than there are from the USA, Europe and Australia.

**Figure 10:** International lenders to the national museums

[Click here to see a map which shows where national museums have borrowed objects from around the world in 2019/20.](#)



## Conclusion

In this third year of partnership reporting, the data for collection sharing activity shows that overall the number of loans is increasing. There are some variations in the numbers reported, which is to be expected given that the majority of activity is reactive to external demand. The national museums mostly respond to requests submitted to them by external partners, although some of the projects reported on (such as The British Library's Treasures on Tour programme) suggest a more proactive approach. The data suggest that there is an element of resilience to lending and borrowing and strong relationships have formed between partner organisations which result in repeat collaboration. Looking at the data across the three years, there is little geographical variation both within the UK and globally, in the areas receiving the most loans from the national museums. There are also many organisations that appear in repeated years as both borrowers and lenders, suggesting reciprocal and repeat partnerships. As mentioned earlier in the report and in previous reports, this is linked to a number of factors: the ability of the borrowing venue to meet the costs and conditions of loan and perhaps even confidence in and familiarity with the process involved in borrowing from the national museums. Some national museums participate in activities designed to develop knowledge and skills within the sector to borrow objects and guidance is available online through the National Museum Directors Council's recently published 'Principles for Lending and Borrowing'<sup>6</sup>.

However, as mentioned previously, this report does not capture the full impact of the Covid-19 pandemic or EU Exit. During successive lockdowns, museums have had to close to the public and many of their usual activities suspended. Staff on furlough and redundancies are also expected to have reduced capacity to administer loans and other partnership activities in both the national and regional museums. This is expected to have reduced the number of loans and exhibitions that went ahead in 2020/21.

As with the 2018/19 report, the 2019/20 report only focuses on collection sharing activities. The 2020/21 Partnership Survey will be broader, and aim to capture a wider range of the national museums partnership activities including research and academic partnerships, networks, learning and education partnerships and training and development. It is also anticipated that this survey will highlight some of the innovative ways in which the national museums worked with others to continue to provide a service to audiences during lockdown.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.nationalmuseums.org.uk/what-we-do/contributing-sector/lending-and-borrowing-guidelines/>

# Appendix 1: List of images

Figure 1: The 75 sites of the 22 national museums included in this report

Figure 2: Loans out within the UK received by region

Figure 3: UK short loans out received by postal area

Figure 4: UK long loans out received by postal area

Figure 5: Types of institution which borrow from the national collection

Figure 6: International short term loans out

Figure 7: International touring exhibitions

Figure 8: International research loans

Figure 9: Types of lender to the national museums

Figure 10: International lenders to the national museums

## Appendix 2: The survey

The survey was sent in the format of a spreadsheet template to ensure as much consistency as possible between the different museums' returns, while also providing some flexibility to account for the very different nature of the activity carried out by the museums.

The final questions were:

### 1: Loans

1:1 Please list venues that you have loaned collections to and borrowed from on short term loan between 1st April 2019 and 31st March 2020

1:2 Please list venues that you have loaned collections to and borrowed from on long loan between 1st April 2019 and 31st March 2020

1:3 Please list details of touring exhibitions between 1st April 2019 and 31st March 2020

### 2: Acquisitions

Please list any acquisitions made by other museums and institutions that you have supported between 1st April 2018 and 31st March 2019

## Appendix 3: Useful links

### **British Library**

<https://www.bl.uk/about-us/governance/policies/borrowing-for-exhibitions>

<https://www.bl.uk/touring-exhibition-hire>

### **British Museum**

<https://www.britishmuseum.org/our-work/how-borrow-british-museum-objects>

<https://www.britishmuseum.org/our-work/international/international-touring-exhibitions>

<https://www.britishmuseum.org/our-work/national/uk-touring-exhibitions-and-loans>

<https://www.britishmuseum.org/our-work/national/treasure-and-portable-antiquities-scheme>

### **Imperial War Museums**

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/managing/loans>

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/partnerships>

### **National Gallery**

<https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/about-us/the-gallery-nationwide/borrowing-from-the-national-gallery-a-guide>

<https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/about-us/organisation/policies/loans-out-policy>

<https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/about-us/the-gallery-nationwide>

### **National Portrait Gallery**

<https://www.npg.org.uk/beyond/nationalprogrammes.php>

<https://www.npg.org.uk/collections/loans/>

### **Sir John Soane's Museum**

<https://www.soane.org/collections>

<https://www.soane.org/about/governance-and-management>

### **Horniman Museum**

<https://www.horniman.ac.uk/explore-the-collections/about-the-collections/loans/>

<https://www.horniman.ac.uk/projects/>

### **Natural History Museum**

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/our-science/collections/accessing-collections/loans.html>

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/about-us/national-impact.html>

### **Royal Armouries**

<https://royalarmouries.org/collection-management/loans/>

### **Royal Museums Greenwich**

<https://www.rmg.co.uk/collections/borrowing-our-collections>

<https://www.rmg.co.uk/about-us/international-touring-activities>

### **Science Museum Group**

<https://www.sciencemuseumgroup.org.uk/our-services/object-loans/>

<https://www.sciencemuseumgroup.org.uk/our-services/partner-with-us/touring-exhibitions/>

<https://www.sciencemuseumgroup.org.uk/our-work/projects-and-partnerships/>

### **Tate**

<https://www.tate.org.uk/about-us/collection#loans>

<https://www.tate.org.uk/about-us/national-international-local>

<https://www.tate.org.uk/about-us/national-international-local/plus-tate>

### **V&A**

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/info/loans>

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/info/exhibitions-for-hire>

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/info/va-international>

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/info/the-ace-va-purchase-grant-fund>

### **National Army Museum**

<https://www.nam.ac.uk/borrowing-national-army-museum>

### **National Museum of the Royal Navy**

<https://www.nmrn.org.uk/exhibitions-projects>

### **RAF Museum**

<https://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/research/default/loans/>

### **National Museums Liverpool**

<https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/touring-exhibitions/touring-exhibitions-and-loans>

<https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/about/partnerships>

### **National Museums Scotland**

<https://www.nms.ac.uk/about-us/services-and-expertise/loans/>

<https://www.nms.ac.uk/national-international/sharing-collections/touring-and-lending/>

<https://www.nms.ac.uk/national-international/national-programme-2021-2025/>

<https://www.nms.ac.uk/about-us/services-and-expertise/national-fund-for-acquisitions/>

### **National Museum Wales**

<https://museum.wales/curatorial/art/loans/>

<https://museum.wales/donate/international/>

<https://museum.wales/portable-antiquities-scheme-in-wales/>

### **National Museums NI**

<https://www.nmni.com/collections/Loans-touring-exhibitions.aspx>

<https://www.nmni.com/collections/Research.aspx>

### **National Galleries Scotland**

<https://www.nationalgalleries.org/about-us/collections-management>

[https://www.nationalgalleries.org/sites/default/files/features/pdfs/Strategic%20Plan%202019-23\\_0.pdf](https://www.nationalgalleries.org/sites/default/files/features/pdfs/Strategic%20Plan%202019-23_0.pdf)

**Wallace Collection**

[https://www.wallacecollection.org/documents/183/TWC\\_Loans\\_Out\\_Policy.pdf](https://www.wallacecollection.org/documents/183/TWC_Loans_Out_Policy.pdf)