



Department for  
Digital, Culture,  
Media & Sport

# **Export of Objects of Cultural Interest 2020-21**

March 2022

# **Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport**

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Presented to Parliament pursuant to Section 10 (1) (a) of the Export Control Act 2002.



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# Export of Objects of Cultural Interest 2020-21

Report to Parliament pursuant to Section 10 (1) (a) of the Export Control Act 2002 by the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport covering the period 1 May 2020 to 30 April 2021

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

The Export Control Act 2002 requires the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport to lay a report on the operation during the year of the Export Control Order relating to the export of objects of cultural interest; and a report on other matters relating to the operation of the Act. In previous years, these requirements have been met through one publication - the annual report of the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest.

For the 2020-21 reporting cycle and future years the Secretary of State will provide a separate report to Parliament, as here, on the operation of the control which covers the reporting requirements of s.10 of the Export Control Act 2002. The Reviewing Committee will continue to publish a report on its activity, ensuring the transparency and accountability of a public body although, in future, this will be fully digital.

The Committee met remotely 10 times during the 2020-21 reporting period and considered 7 objects referred to them at three of those meetings. The Committee will be reporting on 10 objects, three of which were considered in the previous reporting period. For all but one of the 10 objects considered, the Committee recommended that their export licences should be deferred. The aggregate value of the objects came to £38,082,000. In 2020-21 three objects were saved for the nation:

A Romano-British Mosaic  
The Astor Armada Drawings  
Death of Cleopatra by H. Triqueti

One object was withdrawn following a serious expression of interest from a private buyer and the other five were or can be exported.

The [66th annual report \(2020-21\) of the Reviewing Committee](#) is available in a digital format on the Arts Council website.

# Operation of the Control

The following figures cover the period of this report (1 May 2020 to 30 April 2021).

		<b>1 May 2019 – 30 April 2020</b>	<b>1 May 2020 – 30 April 2021</b>
(a)	Number of applications for individual export licences <sup>1</sup>	9,511	4,826
(b)	Number of above applications which were for manuscripts, documents or archives	1,434	1,231
(c)	Number of items licensed after reference to expert advisers on the question of national importance	21,090	18,511
(d)	Total value of items in (c)	£1,670,505,289	£800,909,757
(e)	Number of Open Individual Export Licences (OIEL) 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 objects owned or under the control of national institutions or institutions holding designated collections.	66	64
(f)	Number of items licensed after the Export Licensing Unit was satisfied of import into the UK within the past 50 years	8,537	7,394
(g)	Total value of items in (f)	£8,077,631,440	£6,133,361,503
(h)	Number of items in (f) which were manuscripts, documents or archives	905	2,769

		<b>1 May 2019 – 30 April 2020</b>	<b>1 May 2020 – 30 April 2021</b>
(i)	Total value of items in (h)	£99,138,766	£49,936,213
(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 <sup>2</sup> ; owned by a museum or gallery that had an 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 six months for use in the course of work by a professional musician; a motor vehicle exported for less than six months for social, domestic or pleasure purposes; a foreign registered motor vehicle exported following importation for less than six months for pleasure purposes; imported into the UK in the last 50 years and were being exported on a temporary basis.	2,207	436
(k)	Total value of items in (j)	£4,740,545,853	£495,553,993

1 One application may cover several items.

2 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.

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