



Department for
Digital, Culture,
Media & Sport

Export of Objects of Cultural Interest 2021-22

December 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 2021 to 30 April 2022

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.

This report covers the reporting requirements of s.10 of the Export Control Act 2002. Separate to this, the Reviewing Committee publishes an annual report on its activity, ensuring the transparency and accountability of a public body.

The Committee met remotely 8 times and in person twice during the 2021-22 reporting period and considered 18 objects referred to it at 9 of those meetings. The Committee will be reporting on 19 objects, one of them from the 2018/19 reporting period. For all but two of these the Committee recommended that their export licences should be deferred. Two were withdrawn, one before it was referred to the Minister for Arts and Heritage, the other one later and the Minister accepted the Committee's recommendation that 15 cases were national treasures and they were deferred. Their aggregate value came to £113,829,831.

To date 3 of them have been saved for the nation:

Case 1 Gould's Original Drawings, Vols I and II

Case 3 *The Nativity*, by Baldassare Tommaso Peruzzi

Case 13 17th-century manuscript of Italian and French lute music

Three are still under deferral and the other 9 were or can be exported.

[The 67th annual report \(2021-22\) of the 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 (i.e.1 May 2021 to 30 April 2022).

		1 May 2020 – 30 April 2021	1 May 2021 – 30 April 2022
(a)	Number of applications for individual export licences ^[1]	4,826	4,477
(b)	Number of above applications which were for manuscripts, documents or archives	1,231	1,308
(c)	Number of items licensed after reference to expert advisers on the question of national importance	18,511	18,414
(d)	Total value of items in (c)	£800,909,757	£1,146,641,097
(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 by or under the control of national institutions or institutions holding designated collections	64	64
(f)	Number of items licensed after the Export Licensing Unit was satisfied of import into the UK within the past 50 years	7,394	3,371
(g)	Total value of items in (f)	£6,133,361,503	£4,137,786,788
(h)	Number of items in (f) which were manuscripts, documents or archives	2,769	619

		1 May 2020 – 30 April 2021	1 May 2021 – 30 April 2022
(i)	Total value of items in (h)	£49,936,213	£61,498,028
(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;; 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 or owned by a museum or gallery that had an OIEL and were being exported on a temporary basis ^[ii]	436	0
(k)	Total value of items in (j)	£495,553,993	£0

^[i] One application may cover several items.

^[ii] Following the end of the EU Exit transition period on 31 December 2020, the UK stopped issuing EU licences for cultural goods, except for cultural goods being exported from Northern Ireland directly to non-EU countries. No EU licences were issued in the reporting period 1 May 2021 – 30 April 2022.

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