



Department for Culture, Media & Sport

Freedom of Information Team
Department for Culture, Media &
Sport

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Owen Boswarva
owen.boswarva@gmail.com

Dear Owen Boswarva,

Thank you for your correspondence of 6 July, in which you made the following request for information:

I understand that DCMS licenses photographic images of works of art in the Government Art Collection (GAC), under arrangements described on the Department's website at

<https://artcollection.culture.gov.uk/licensing-images/>

I would like to request some information about DCMS's income and costs in connection with this licensing activity.

Please provide:

- ***total income or revenue from licensing of GAC images in each of the past five years, and***
- ***total costs of operating the licensing facility in each of the five years.***

I don't mind whether the figures are broken down by calendar year or financial year, but they should include the most recent five complete years as well as the current part year – either to date, or to the end of the most recent month for which DCMS holds the information.

If held, please also provide separate figures for income in each year from (a) licensing of images for publication or commercial purposes,

and (b) licensing of images for personal use or research purposes only.

The cost totals should include both staff costs and any other expenditure required to maintain the licensing facility, but I am not seeking any breakdown of those totals other than by year.

We have dealt with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act). I can confirm that the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) does have information within scope of your request.

The Government Art Collection (GAC) promotes British art, culture and creativity through



displays in UK Government buildings worldwide. It is the most widely distributed collection of British art, with displays in over 125 countries, and makes an important contribution to the UK's cultural diplomacy through being seen by thousands of visitors to these buildings each year.

The GAC has delegated authority from the Keeper of Public Records, now part of The National Archives (TNA), to licence and re-use the Crown Copyright material held in its photographic and digital archives independently. This framework allows the GAC to issue licences and charge for images of works of art in its care. The Collection contains over 14,700 works of art, of which almost 50% are in copyright; the GAC maintains an image library of these works both for internal use and for external public access and research purposes.

The GAC's licensing operation has always been run as a public service and not for profit. The charging model in the GAC's licensing operation is subject to the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015. The charging structure makes images of artworks held in the Collection accessible for both commercial and non-commercial use. We are regularly reviewing this process to ensure that we provide a fair and responsible model for artists, users of the Collection and the taxpayer.

With regards to your queries, please find this information below.

Financial Year	Total Commercial	Total Non-Commercial	Total Licensing Income
2018/19	£4,967.50	£437.50	£5,405.00
2019/20	£4,222.50	£307.50	£4,530.00
2020/21	£2,491.50	£945.00	£3,436.50
2021/22	£3,460.00	£597.00	£4,057.00
2022/23	£2,792.00	£450.00	£3,242.00

Financial Year	Estimated Total Cost of Operating Licensing Facility
2018/19	£9,317.93
2019/20	£9,860.29
2020/21	£9,992.00
2021/22	£9,999.28
2022/23	£10,335.56

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Team
Department for Culture, Media and Sport

Complaints and comments

As is customary in our replies, I should explain that if you are dissatisfied with any aspect of our response to your request for information, and/or wish to appeal against information being withheld from you, please send full details within two calendar months of the date of this response to: foi@dcms.gov.uk. You have the right to ask the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) to investigate any aspect of your complaint. Please note that



the ICO is likely to expect internal complaints procedures to have been exhausted before beginning an investigation.