



**Information Governance Team**

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11 December 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)**

**Request ID: FOI566833773**

Thank you for your request for information relating to Local Authority Artwork.

You have requested the following information:

**Public display includes those that can be viewed by the members of the public in local authority buildings such as council headquarters, libraries, sports and leisure centres, and schools that are under local authority control. It would exclude areas of council properties that cannot be readily entered into by members of the public (such as, the office of the head of paid service). Artwork includes, but is not limited to, paintings, photographs, sculptures, and electronic art.**

**1. How many artworks have been purchased by the local authority in 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23?**

We confirm that a total of three artworks have been purchased by us within these time periods. These artworks were all externally funded through grant aid.

**2. How many artworks are in the possession of the local authority?**

A total of 6,692 artworks are currently in our possession.

**3. What is the estimated value of the artworks?**

In response to Question 3, we confirm we do hold the information you have requested, however the information you have requested is exempt from disclosure under Section 31(1)(a) and Section

31 (3) of the FOIA Act 2000. Section 31 of the FOIA relates to Law Enforcement and Section 31(3) removes the public authority's duty to disclose the information if to do so would, or would be likely to prejudice law enforcement.

It is the Council's view that disclosure of the information relating to the estimated value of the artworks, would be likely to compromise the security of Council assets and would be likely to prejudice the prevention and detection of crime.

Section 31(3) is a qualified exemption, as such we have gone on to perform a public interest test in order to assess the public interest arguments for and against declaring whether or not the requested information is held.

In considering the public interest for and against disclosure in this case, the Council has considered the public interest in disclosing this information for artworks in terms of the contribution to demonstrating transparency and in this instance, the Council judges that the public interest in disclosure is outweighed by the public interest in allowing the Council to ensure that its legitimate business and that of others are protected from criminal activity.

#### **4. How many artworks are on public display?**

The number of artworks on public display changes on a regular basis, as items come on and off display. The artwork collection is regularly rotated throughout the year with an average of 250 art works on display at any one time. Additionally, most artworks in the collection are available to view online, while a further 12 artworks are on display in Coventry schools as part of a loan partnership with the Arts Council Collection.

The supply of information in response to a FOI request does not confer an automatic right to re-use the information. You can use any information supplied for the purposes of private study and non-commercial research without requiring further permission. Similarly, information supplied can also be re-used for the purposes of news reporting. An exception to this is photographs. Please contact us if you wish to use the information for any other purpose.

For information, we publish a variety of information such as: [FOI/EIR Disclosure Log](#), [Publication Scheme](#), [Facts about Coventry](#) and [Open Data](#) that you may find of useful if you are looking for information in the future.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: [infogov@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:infogov@coventry.gov.uk)

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email [icocasework@ico.org.uk](mailto:icocasework@ico.org.uk).

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

**Information Governance**