



## Museum Collections, Storage, Access and Resilience Research

This survey asks for information on your museum collection – how it is stored and the costs of storage; plans for the development of your collection (including acquisition and rationalisation); and the extent to which you enable public access to your stored collection.

**By completing this survey, you will be providing vital evidence to The National Lottery Heritage Fund which will inform our future work under our Delivery Plan 2026-29.**

**We are looking for responses from museums of all types and sizes, and from across the UK. If you run a service across multiple sites, please report a service-wide view. Please note that this survey focuses on your collection of physical objects, and does not include digital records.**

**Please ensure we receive a single survey response for your museum or museum service. The survey should be completed by a person with good knowledge of your museum's collection** – this could be a Museum Manager, Director, Collections Manager, or Curator.

Survey responses will be treated anonymously. A summary of results will be compiled by the researchers and may be shared with sector stakeholders upon completion of the survey.

### About your museum

1

**Please indicate your museum's governance structure by checking below.**

- National
- Local Authority
- Independent
- Ministry of Defence
- University
- Independent Trust - former local authority
- National Trust
- National Trust for Scotland
- English Heritage
- Historic Environment Scotland
- Other

2

**Please indicate your annual museum(s) visitor numbers, if you are responding for a museum service please indicate the combined total of visitors for all sites**

- up to 10 000 visitors
- 10 001 - 20 000 visitors
- 20 001 - 50 000 visitors
- 50 001 - 100 000 visitors
- 100 001 - 500 000 visitors
- In excess of 500 000 visitors

3

**Museum Accreditation Scheme - Please indicate if your museum(s) hold Museum Accreditation. If you are a multi-site service please tick the box that represents the situation for the majority of your museums. You can check the Museum Accreditation status of your museum(s) here <https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/supporting-arts-museums-and-libraries/uk-museum-accreditation-scheme>**

- Full Museum Accreditation
- Provisional Museum Accreditation
- Working Towards Accreditation
- Not part of the Museum Accreditation Scheme

4

**Location - The National Lottery Heritage Fund operates in Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and in three regions in England. Please indicate where your museum(s) is located. Information on our areas is here <https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/in-your-area>**

- Scotland
- Northern Ireland
- Wales
- England, London and South
- England, Midlands and East
- England, North

**Please tell us the name of your museum. If you are answering for a multi-site service, please provide the name of the museum service. We will not identify individual museums or museum services in our analysis or reports.**

## Your museum collections

6

**What is the total size of your museum's collection, please provide the best estimate and include objects on display, in storage and on loan to other organisations.**

- Up to 10 000 objects
- 10 001 - 50 000 objects
- 50 001 - 100 000 objects
- 100 001 - 500 000 objects
- over 500 000 objects

7

**Please provide an estimate of the percentage of your collection which is in storage. Please calculate this percentage using the number of objects.**

- 0 - 10%
- 11 - 50%
- 51 - 89%
- over 90%

8

**How much longer do you estimate it will take before your current store(s) reach full capacity?**

- The stores are already full
- The stores will be full within 5 years
- The stores will be full within 5-10 years
- It will be more than 10 years before the stores are full

**To what extent do you believe your collection storage is meeting best practice standards? A recognised benchmark is achieving the 'good' level outlined in the Benchmarks in Collections Care or meeting the BS EN 16893:2018 standard for Conservation of Cultural Heritage. Please estimate the percentage of the collection meeting best practice standards from the list below.**

- 20% and under
- 21% - 50%
- 51% - 80%
- over 80%

**Which areas of your museum storage are a priority for improvement? Please move the options below to create a ranked list of priorities, placing the highest priority area at the top of your list and the lowest priority at the bottom of the list.**

Environmental monitoring and control

Storage furniture and housing

Documentation

Packaging

Access to collections

Storage building(s)

**Do you have any particular concerns or opportunities related to your collection storage that you wish to mention? Please complete the text box below.**

## Costs of stored collections

12

**Are you currently able to calculate your collection storage costs as an organisation?**

Yes

No

13

**If 'Yes: to Q12 how do you calculate this cost?**

14

**In your opinion, is the cost of storing your collection placing a financial strain on your organisation?**

Yes

No

Maybe

15

**In reviewing storage costs, are there specific areas your organisation is considering to achieve cost savings? Please tick all that apply.**

- We are not planning to reduce expenditure on museum storage
- Rationalisation of stored collections
- Consolidate storage across fewer sites
- Energy efficiency measures
- Shared storage with other organisations
- Using deep storage
- Reducing the use of commercial storage
- Reducing collections related staffing
- Other

16

**Do you rent supplementary storage facilities outside your primary museum building to meet your collection storage requirements?**

- Yes
- No

17

**Do you currently share joint storage with other museums or cultural organisations (not including commercial storage)?**

- Yes
- No
- Other

18

**If yes to Q17, please briefly describe your joint storage arrangements (who do you share with and how much is jointly stored)?**

## Collections Development and Rationalisation

19

**Are you currently seeking to acquire or collect new objects into your collection?**

- Yes
- No

20

**If yes to Q19, what are the principal constraints on new acquisitions? Please tick all that apply.**

- Cost/fundraising
- Lack of appropriate storage
- Lack of adequate insurance
- Inadequate security
- Staff capacity
- Prioritising existing backlogs
- Collections development policy
- Lack of support/interest from local community
- There are no constraints on new acquisitions
- Other

21

**Based on your best estimate, what is the total number of objects your museum has added to its collection over the past year?**

- Under 100 objects
- 101-500 objects
- 501-1000 objects
- In excess of 1000 objects

22

**Are you currently seeking to rationalise your collections, for example through a programme of collection reviews.**

- Yes
- No

23

**If yes to Q22, what are the key benefits that you expect collections rationalisation to bring to the organisation? Please select all benefits that apply.**

- Increased community engagement
- Increased storage space for new collecting
- Space for reorganisation/ a wider collections move
- Reduced costs on collections storage and management
- Improved exhibitions
- Programming and public access
- Other

24

**Using your best estimate, how many objects has your museum rationalised/disposed of in the previous 12 months?**

- No objects rationalised/disposed of
- 1-99 objects
- 100-499 objects
- over 500 objects

## Public access

25

**What level of public access do you currently provide to your stored collection? Please tick all that apply.**

- No public access provided
- Pre-booked individual visits
- Pre-booked group visits
- Open public access
- Loans
- Temporary exhibitions
- Other

26

**How do you provide information to the public about your stored collections?**

- We don't provide information about stored collections
- Information on the website
- Information in the galleries
- Information on social media
- Access to collections documentation through a third party e.g. Art UK, the Museums Data Service
- Other

27

**Is improving access to your stored collection a priority for your organisation?**

- Not a priority at all
- A medium priority
- A high priority

**Is there anything further you would like to add about your museum collections storage?**

Thank you



Thank you for completing the Museum Collections, Storage, Access and Resilience Research survey for The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Thanks to National Lottery Players.

---

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Microsoft. The data you submit will be sent to the form owner.

 Microsoft Forms