



[REDACTED]

22 September 2021

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2021/00396

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 31 August in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I'd like to request further details on the Museum, Galleries and Collections Fund which helps supports university museums.

Questions:

- I see there was a review of this grant in 2016. Please could you send me the findings and recommendations from this review?*
- Does the fund still exist, or one that helps fund university museums to help with the costs of opening up their collection to a wider community? If so how much is the funding pot, how long is the funding period, and what are the outcomes expected from the university museums?*
- Has there been a review since the 2016. If so please could you share a copy of the findings and recommendations?*

Thank you very much. [REDACTED]

Our response

I can confirm UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) hold information relevant to your request. Please see the information below.

Under Section 21 of the FOIA - Information already reasonably accessible, some of the information you have requested is already available in the public domain. In that regard we have provided the relevant links below. Section 21 is an absolute exemption which means that there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test.

Please could you send me the findings and recommendations from the 2016 review?

Information on the Research England Museum, Galleries and Collections Fund can be found [here](#)¹.

In 2016 the former Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) completed a review of its funding for Higher Education Museums and Galleries (HEMG) in which HEMGs were invited to (re)apply for funding. The aims of the review were to ensure that judgements on HEMG funding continued to be based on clear principles and evidence, and that submissions were assessed within their own institutional context and on the basis of evidence in relation to past performance, potential for future performance, and plans to deliver outcomes.

¹ <https://re.ukri.org/funding/our-funds-overview/museums-galleries-and-libraries/>

The background and terms of reference of the review can be found [here](#)². Also attached is a presentation that provides additional information about the review “FOI2021-00396 HEFCE Review of HEMGs 2016”, and includes information on the gateway and quality criteria that must be satisfied for an HEMG to be considered for funding.

An independent panel of experts, led by Diane Lees CBE, Director-General of the Imperial War Museums, worked with HEFCE and in consultation with the sector to agree submission criteria. The panel considered how far individual submissions demonstrated activity which met the criteria and the HEFCE policy aims, and made funding recommendations on this basis.

The review highlighted the unique and significant contributions museums, galleries and collections make to research, scholarship and research impact in the UK and internationally.

Research England HEMG funding is driven by the results of this review.

Research England currently provides £10.7 million per year to 33 higher education museums, galleries and collections (HEMGs) across 19 higher education providers. The amount of the annual allocation to each HEMG is detailed in the table in the document attached “FOI2021-00396 RE HEMG Fund Allocations”.

Does the fund still exist, or one that helps fund university museums to help with the costs of opening up their collection to a wider community? If so how much is the funding pot, how long is the funding period, and what are the outcomes expected from the university museums?

Research England currently provides £10.7m of HEMG funding per year. HEMG funding is for a period of five years.

Research England HEMG funding is intended to help museums, galleries and collections to serve the wider research community where this costs them significantly more than meeting the needs of their own researchers and students.

Has there been a review since 2016?

The fund was last reviewed in 2016 for funding from 2017/18. The next review had been due to take place in 2021 to inform allocations from 2022/23; however, because of the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, the review has been postponed until 2022 and current HEMG funding extended for an additional year.

If you have any queries regarding our response or you are unhappy with the outcome of your request and wish to seek an internal review of the decision, please contact:

Head of Information Governance

Email: foi@ukri.org or infogovernance@ukri.org

Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are still not content with the outcome of the internal review, you may apply to refer the matter to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the review procedure provided by UKRI. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: <http://www.ico.gov.uk/>

If you wish to raise a complaint regarding the service you have received or the conduct of any UKRI staff in relation to your request, please see UKRI’s complaints policy: <https://www.ukri.org/about-us/policies-and-standards/complaints-policy/>

Yours sincerely,

² <https://re.ukri.org/documents/2017/hemg-tor-2016/>



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