

East Lothian Council

FOI Ref: 2018/510889

1) How many museums does your council run?

East Lothian Council (ELC) directly operates and manages 4 museums and supports a further two community museums and one volunteer run exhibition space.

2) How many items are there in your museums' collections? What is their combined value?

There are 16,422 items in the museum collection.

We only have a value for the artworks in the collection. We don't have a current valuation for any other part of the collection. In view of this, under Section 17(1)(b) of the Act, I must formally advise you that ELC has been unable to comply with this part of your request as the information you require is not held.

3) How many of those items are currently on display? What is their combined value?

328; Value =£819,300

**4) For each of the last four financial years, ending with 2017/18:
a. How many items have been sold by your museums? What is the sum of money those sales have raised?**

No museum collection items have been sold.

b. How much of that money was kept within museums rather than going to other parts of the council?

Not applicable.

c. How many items have been bought by your museums? How much, in total, was paid for them?

£14,814.94 for 12 artworks.

5) Over the last four years, what is the single biggest amount raised by selling an item? What was the item in question? How and to whom was it sold?

Please refer to Q4a.

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6) Even if no sales have been made, has the council considered selling any of its collection at any point over the last four years?

No

To be clear – I am only interested in items in the museums' collection of historical artefacts. I am not interested in how much the museum is spending on buying and selling items like cleaning products, pens or computer equipment.

Finally, it may help to explain that Freedom of Information legislation only applies to information which is held or recorded by a public authority. It does not apply to views, opinions, intentions or questions which simply require a yes/no answer. In view of this, some of the questions asked are not technically valid for the purposes of this legislation as they are not requests for specific recorded information that ELC may or may not hold.

In order to assist you, however, colleagues have addressed the questions posed to the best of their knowledge. For future reference, a link to the "Tips for Requesters" page of the Scottish Information Commissioner's website has been provided which you may find useful:

<http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/YourRights/Tipsforrequesters.aspx>