



DEBATE PACK

Number CDP-2018-0059, 6 March 2018

Local museums

Westminster Hall, Wednesday 7 March 2018, 2.30pm

A Westminster Hall debate on Local museums is scheduled for Wednesday 7 March 2018 at 2.30pm. The Member leading the debate is Stephen Kerr MP.

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1. Statistics on local museums

1.1 Background and data available

Statistics published by the [DCMS](#) only covers sponsored museums and galleries. The Museum Association annual museum survey provides data on local authority and Independent Former Local Authority (IFLA) museums. The latest key findings of this survey are available in the [Museums in the UK 2018](#) report.

Museum Association data

The latest Museum Association survey of museums was conducted between September and November 2017 and covers 2016/17. In total, 308 respondents completed the survey, representing 435 museums. The Association reported that: *“estimates suggest that the total number of museums in the UK is around 2,500, depending on how they are defined and counted. Therefore the survey’s respondents represent roughly 17% of the total number of museums. This is a healthy sample size that indicates that UK museums are well represented by the survey”*¹.

Types of museums in the UK

The Museum Association data suggests that local authority museums account for 24% of all museums. This is the second highest category after independent museums which comprise 43%. The table on the right presents estimated museum distribution by type in 2016/17.

TYPE OF MUSEUM	
Independent	43%
Local authority	24%
National	10%
Independent former local authority	6%
Military	4%
University	4%
National Trust	1%
Other	7%

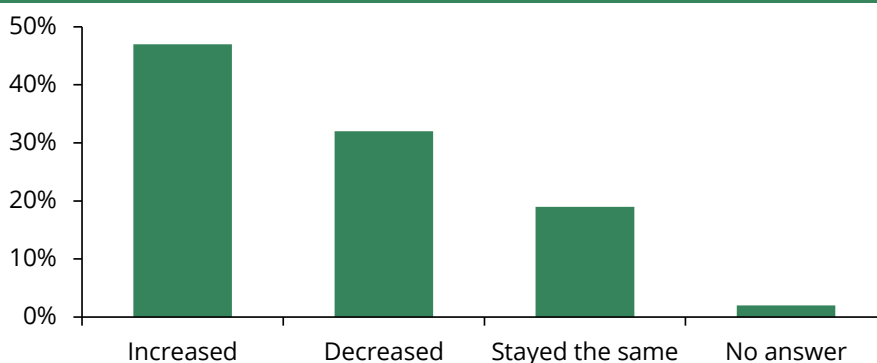
Overall attendance

Attendance was higher in almost half (47%) of all museums 2016/17 compared to 2015/16. In contrast around one-third (32%) reported decrease in attendance and one fifth (19%) similar attendance levels.

Source: Museum Association, [Museums of the UK 2018 report](#), figure 1.2 p 7, February 2018

VISITOR NUMBERS (ALL MUSEUMS)

2016/17 compared to 2015/16

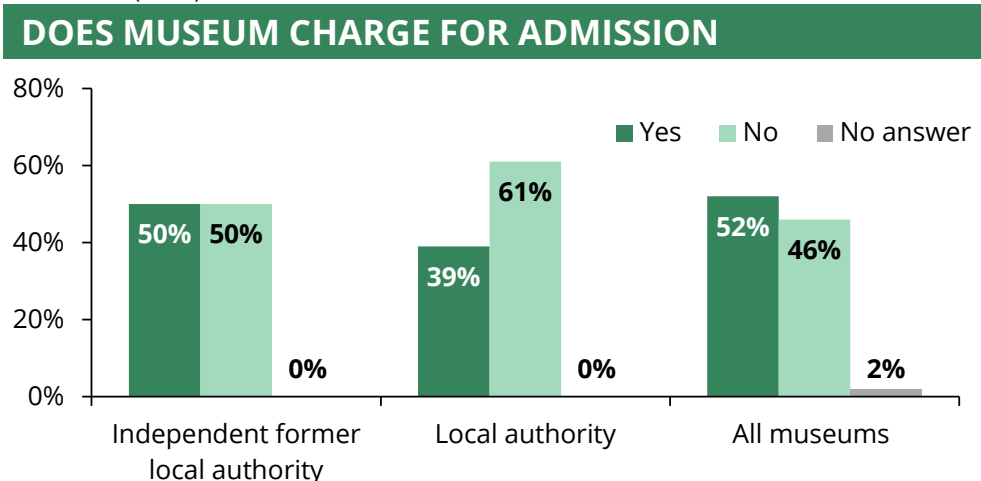


¹ Museum Association, [Museums in the UK 2018](#), February 2018

Source: Museum Association, [Museums of the UK 2018 report](#), figure 2.1 p 8, February 2018

Admission charges

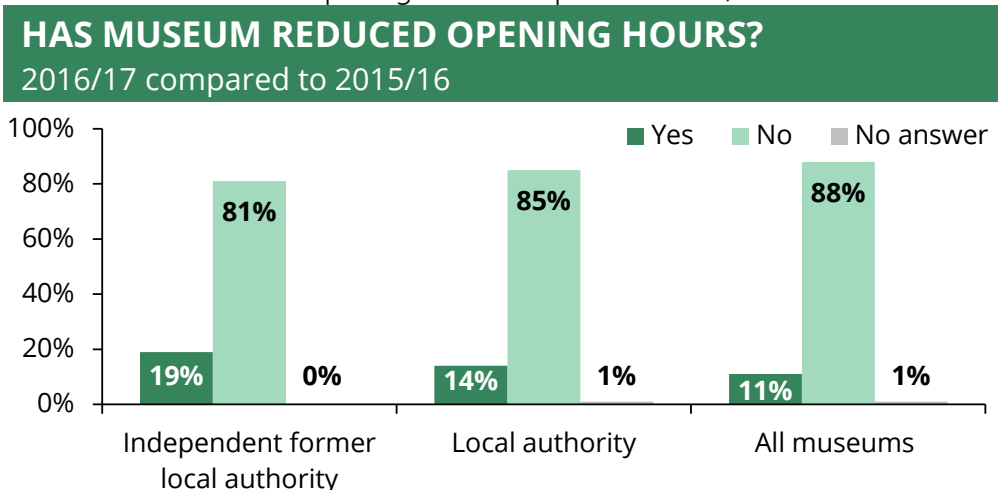
Around 39% of local authority museums charged for admission in 2016/17. This was twelve percentage points lower compared to all museums (52%) and eleven percentage points lower than IFLA museums (50%).



Source: Museum Association, [Museums of the UK 2018 report](#), figure 2.2 p 9, February 2018

Opening hours

88% of all museums reduced their working hours in 2016/17 compared to 2015/16. Around 85% of local authority museums and 81% of IFLA museums reduced their opening hours compared to 2015/16.



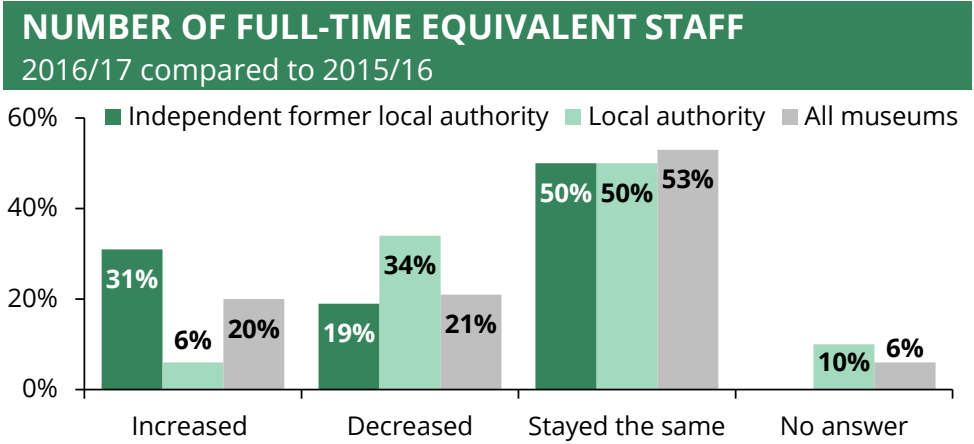
Source: Museum Association, [Museums of the UK 2018 report](#), figure 3.2 p 11, February 2018

Staff

Staff numbers stayed the same in around half of all museums in 2016/17 compared to 2015/16.

Around 31% of all IFLA museums increased the number of employees, compared to 6% of local authority museums and 20% of museums overall.

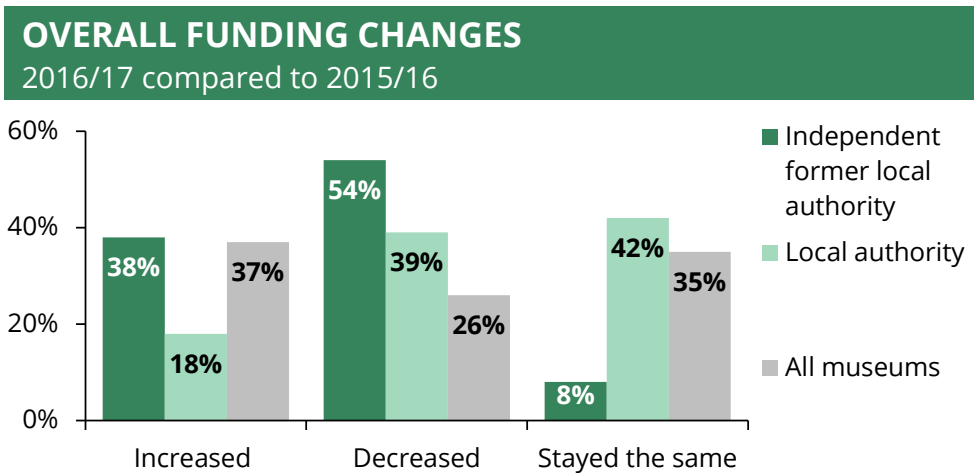
Around 34% of local authority museums had fewer staff compared to 19% of IFLA museums.



Source: Museum Association, [Museums of the UK 2018 report](#), figure 3.2 p 13, February 2018

Funding

The chart below shows funding changes by museum type. Around 26% of all museums indicated that funding was lower in 2016/17 compared to 2015/16. It decreased in 39% of local authority museums and 54% of IFLA museums.



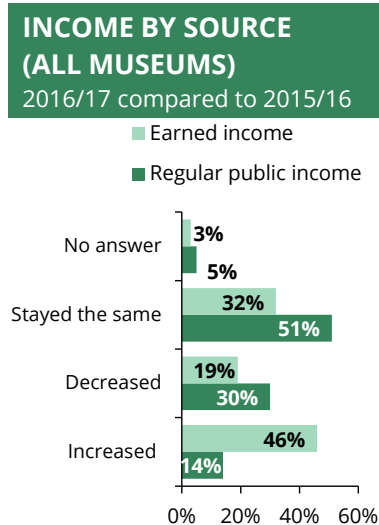
Source: Museum Association, [Museums of the UK 2018 report](#), figure 3.3 p 14, February 2018

In 2016/17, 38% of IFLA museums and 37% of current local authority museums reported an increase in funding, compared to just 18% of all museums.

Around 42% of local authority museums indicated that their income had stayed the same. This compares with 35% of all museums and just 8% of IFLA museums.

The chart on the right shows that **regular public income** (all public revenue funding, such as money received from a local authority or higher education institution) stayed the same in 51%, and increased in 14% of all museums.

In contrast, 46% of all museums indicated that **earned income** from sources such as cafes and shops increased and 32% reported that this income was the same in 2016/17 compared to 2015/16.



Source: Museum Association, [Museums of the UK 2018 report](#), figure 3.3 p 14, February 2018

2. Independent review of museums (November 2016)

The findings of an [independent review](#) of museums in England (the “Mendoza Review”) were published in November 2017. The review was undertaken in response to the [Culture White Paper](#) (March 2016) which called for “a wide-ranging review of national, local and regional museums, working closely with Arts Council England (ACE) and the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)”. The findings of the review were summarised in a DCMS [press release](#) (14 November 2017):

The [Museums Action Plan](#) will help England’s museums and galleries to thrive and grow.

The review asks Arts Council England (ACE) and Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to show how they will deliver nine key priorities that will enable museums to diversify audiences, contribute to the identity of their local area and become more accessible.

Led by creative industry entrepreneur Neil Mendoza on behalf of the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), the review also recommends that DCMS and its sponsored museums and galleries develop a partnership framework to improve how they work with museums across England, particularly in sharing expertise and ensuring the national collection is accessible to people throughout the country.

The review has identified 16 different sources of public funding and support that have been granted regularly to the museum sector over the last 10 years. This includes investment from central government, local authorities and the National Lottery as well as VAT refunds and the acceptance in Lieu and Cultural Gifts Scheme.

The nine key priorities that the Mendoza Review recommends that DCMS, ACE and HLF include in the Museums Action Plan are:

- Helping adapt to today’s funding environment
- Improving curation and management of collections so that they are accessible to the public
- Growing and diversifying audiences
- Ensuring museums contribute to the priorities of the local area
- Delivering cultural education
- Developing future leaders
- Diversifying the workforce of museums
- Increasing digital capacity and using digital technology to create innovative and engaging exhibition content
- Work internationally

Neil Mendoza, author of *The Mendoza Review: an independent review of museums in England*, said:

“England has a world-class museum sector. Museums play a vital role in the cultural life of the country. Museums sit at the heart of our towns, cities and communities. They are also our most successful tourist attractions. Their curators care for collections for all of us now and for future generations.

National and local government are both deeply involved in this important sector. This review sets out a series of recommendations to government and its key strategic and funding agencies (like Arts Council England and the Heritage Lottery Fund) requiring them to work closely together to help our museums flourish.”

John Glen, Minister for Arts, Heritage and Tourism said:

“I welcome this report from Neil Mendoza and want to thank him for his work. I am pleased that it has found such a successful and dynamic sector, and we can be proud that the UK boasts so many world-class museums.

The Museums Action Plan will provide additional leadership and expertise to local and regional museums to help them grow and thrive, increase audiences and ensure a sustainable future for this important sector.

The Mendoza Review found evidence of a “strong, dynamic” sector that is responding well to an increasingly competitive visitor market, with museums becoming more entrepreneurial and seeking other forms of income through cafes, shops and educational services.

More than half of England’s adults visited a museum last year and the sector now employs around 33,000 people. England is also home to three of the world’s most visited museums.

The review received over 1,500 responses from museums and members of the public describing what museums mean to them. Arts Council England (ACE) and Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) worked closely with the review team, commissioning data and research to inform the review and will be responsible for taking many of the recommendations forward.

In its [response](#) to the review (14 November 2017), the Government said that it accepted the review’s recommendations.

3. Media

Herald (Scotland)

[A new mission for museums: report calls for institutions to help battle 'fake news'](#)

4 March 2018

Museums Association

[Museums Taskforce calls for consistent funding levels](#)

1 March 2018

Guardian

[As cuts funnel culture into the hands of the few, museums are our saviour](#)

19 February 2018

Artnet

[UK museums face growing pressure to sell off works unless public funding improves](#)

16 February 2018

Financial Times

[Museums hit by 'stratospheric' art prices and funding cuts](#)

15 February 2018

4. Parliamentary Business

[Museums and Galleries: Finance](#)

Asked by: Kevin Brennan

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, with reference to the report *Why collect?* published by the Art Fund in January 2018, what recent discussions he has had with Cabinet colleagues on the effects on local museums and galleries of Government changes to funding for local authorities.

Answered by: Michael Ellis | Dept for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

The recent Mendoza Review: an independent review of museums in England was seen by Cabinet colleagues and other government departments were involved throughout its development. The Secretary of State has not had any further discussions on local museums and galleries since its publication. DCMS officials are engaging with officials from the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government regarding local authority funding and its impact on services including arts and culture.

23 February 2018 | Written question | 128604

[Business of the House](#)

Asked by: Stephen Kerr

On the day that we rightly celebrate the life and works of Robbie Burns, the Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum, one of Scotland's iconic cultural centres, is threatened with closure by the SNP council in Stirling. May we have a statement from a Treasury Minister to confirm that the Scottish Government's budget for the coming year is protected in real terms and that it is therefore a political choice, not a necessity, for the Scottish Government to impose spending cuts on local authorities, which threatens institutions such as the Stirling Smith?

Answered by: Andrea Leadsom | Leader of the House of Commons

My hon. Friend is working with the friends of the museum to save this valuable community asset, and I understand that the world's oldest football is one of its exhibits. My hon. Friend will no doubt be aware that the Budget allocated a further £2 billion to the settlement for Scotland and that the Scottish Government can take the decision to save this asset should they choose.

HC Deb 25 January 2018 c416

[Museums and Galleries](#)

HL Deb 23 January 2018 c971-93

[Cultural Institutions: Curriculum Fund](#)

Asked by: Lord Storey

My Lords, given that we are seeing arts subjects being cut in schools, that there has been a 31% reduction in the funding by local authorities to museums and that 64 museums have already closed, would it not be better, rather than giving money to already wealthy establishments, to give the money to deprived areas to turn the corner so that young people have access and are able to go to visit local museums and art galleries?

Answered by: Viscount Younger of Leckie

First, we are focusing on so-called opportunity areas. So we are focusing on those areas we believe are deprived, to be sure that there is better social mobility. In terms of the arts, which I think was the gist of the noble Lord's question, we fund a number of programmes to enhance children's arts education. As the noble Lord will know, these are extensive and include 120 music education hubs, and we have provided £300 million between 2016 and 2020. These ensure, for example, that every child between five and 18 has the opportunity to learn a musical instrument through whole-class ensemble teaching.

HC Deb 6 July 2017 c979

[Public Expenditure: Scotland](#)

Asked by: Stephen Kerr

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how much was allocated to Scotland, outside consequentials arising from the Barnett Formula, in (a) 2016 and (b) 2017.

Answered by: Elizabeth Truss | HM Treasury

Since 2014, the UK government has committed to over £675m investment in Scotland through City Deals, which have included both resource and capital outside the normal, ongoing Barnett funding system. Scotland has also benefited from resource allocated through LIBOR fines, including:

- Over £10m announced at Budget 2016, to support projects such as the new V&A Museum of Design in Dundee, and community facilities for local people in Helensburgh and the nearby naval base at Faslane.
- Over £3m announced at Autumn Statement 2016, to support projects such as the Aberdeen Museums Development Trust, the Children's Hospice Association Scotland, and Poppy Scotland.

4 July 2017 | Written question | 1273

[Local Arts and Cultural Services](#)

HL Deb 30 March 2017 c49-64GC

[Museums](#)

HL Deb 15 November 2016 c1361-76

[Museums and Galleries: Closures](#)

Asked by: Diana Johnson

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, pursuant to the Answer of 26 May 2016 to Question 37452 to the hon. Member for Bristol West, on museums and galleries, which museums wholly reliant on local authority funding have closed in each year since 2009-10.

Answered by: Matt Hancock | Dept for Culture, Media and Sport

The Government is committed to ensuring that arts and cultural experiences, including those offered by museums and galleries, are available to everyone and not just the privileged few. Government provides support to local museums through Arts Council England (ACE), including a £10m Resilience Fund supporting museums at risk to explore new funding models and become more sustainable. Earlier this month, ACE announced the 2018-2022 investment round of £409m per year, which includes a £37m/year increase to focus on improving the amount spent outside London and on integrating museums into the arts portfolio.

The modern model of museums funding is that there are very few museums entirely reliant on local authority funding. Where museums are run by local authorities, decisions on service provision are for those local authorities to take.

27 October 2016 | Written question | 49502

5. Further reading

- Arts Council England website: [Supporting museums](#)
- The Heritage Lottery Fund website: [Museums, libraries and archives](#)
- Museums Association [website](#)
- National Museum Directors' Council [website](#)
- Local Government Association, [Museum survey of heads of cultural services](#), September 2016
- Local Government Association [response](#) to the independent review of museums (2016)
- Culture, Media and Sport Committee, [Funding of the arts and heritage](#), HC 464-I, March 2011

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