



## 250th Anniversary of the Royal Academy QSD on 12 December 2018

This briefing identifies relevant reports and useful documents, including recent parliamentary materials and press articles, which may be of assistance to Members in preparing for the following debate:

Lord Cormack to ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the Royal Academy of Arts, and the contribution made by the Academy to the artistic and cultural life of the country.

Copies of the materials are available for collection from the Library.

### Key Information

- Royal Academy of Arts, [Annual Report 2016/2017](#), 2017, pp 1, 6–14, 18–21, 30–1, 34–7, 46–9, 74–7, 82–3 and 102–5

*Extracts from the latest annual report of the Royal Academy (RA). Includes the RA's description of itself as "an independent charity led by eminent artists and architects. We promote the understanding, appreciation and practice of art through exhibitions, learning and debate". The RA states that it "does not receive funding from government". It outlines the RA's activities in 2016/17, including exhibitions, events, learning programmes, loans and available resources. It also describes the (then forthcoming, now complete) redevelopment of the RA's Burlington Gardens site as part of the anniversary celebrations, labelled "RA250". Finally, it summarises the RA's funding sources.*

- Royal Academy of Arts, '[A Brief History of the Royal Academy](#)', accessed 4 December 2018

*Short history of the RA from its foundation in 1768 to the present day. Longer histories are available in the Library's collection: see 'further information' below. In those, the precise foundation date of the RA is described as 10 December 1768.*

- Art Fund, '[RA250: Celebrating 250 Years of the Royal Academy](#)', accessed 4 December 2018

*Outline of a nationwide programme of talks, exhibitions and events in 2018 to celebrate the anniversary. The programme is supported by the Arts Fund, a charity which supports museums and galleries.*

- House of Lords Library, '[Leaving the European Union: The Arts](#)', 4 October 2018, pp 1–3

*Excerpt from a House of Lords Library briefing which provides a summary of the overall contribution of the cultural sector and the arts to the British economy, provided as background information for the debate.*

## Parliamentary Debate, Statements and Questions

- House of Commons, '[Written Question: Museums and Galleries: Art Works](#)', 4 May 2016, 35779
- [Debate on 'The Arts: Health Effects'](#), HC Hansard, 11 October 2017, col 148WH–9
- [Debate on 'Economy: Creative Industries'](#), HL Hansard, 18 June 2015, col 1285
- [Debate on 'Museums and Galleries'](#), HL Hansard, 7 February 2008, col 1244

## Press Articles and Comment

- Michael Glover, '[The Royal Academy Celebrates its 250th Birthday With a £56m Makeover—But Will Changes to this Elite Institution Prove More Than Skin Deep?](#)', *Independent*, 14 May 2018
- Jan Dalley, '[David Chipperfield: Architecture is in a Sort of Crisis](#)', *Financial Times* (£), 4 May 2018
- Jonathan Jones, '[Radical or Retrograde? Yinka Shonibare Can't Redeem the Royal Academy](#)', *Guardian*, 18 May 2016
- Dalya Alberge, '[Royal Academy Calls for Wedgwood Museum to be Saved](#)', *Guardian*, 16 February 2012
- Terence Mullaney, '[Sidney Hutchison](#)', *Guardian*, 13 May 2000
- *Economist*, 'Royal Academy: Suddenly Every Summer', 3 May 1975

## Further Information

The three books below are all in the Library's collection:

- Holger Hoock, *The King's Artists: The Royal Academy of Arts and the Politics of British Culture, 1760–1840*, 2003
- Sidney Hutchison, *The History of the Royal Academy 1768–1986*, 1986
- Walter Lamb, *The Royal Academy: A Short History of its Foundation and Development*, 1951

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