Statistical report: Accreditation

February 2016 meeting update

10 March 2016

Key trends between February 2015 and February 2016:

- The total number of museums in the Scheme has decreased between February 2015 and February 2016, from 1730 to 1723.
- The number of participating museums holding full Accreditation has decreased from 1580 museums (91.3% of participants) in February 2015 to 1566 museums (90.9% of participants) in February 2016.
- 77.3% of museums whose Accreditation returns were considered by a panel between February 2015 and February 2016 received the award of Full Accreditation.

1 Introduction

This report summarises data about the Museums Accreditation Scheme for the 12-month period between the end of February 2015 and the end of February 2016.

Accreditation is the UK standard for museums and galleries. It defines good practice and identifies agreed standards, thereby encouraging development. It is a baseline quality standard that helps guide museums to be the best they can be, for current and future users.

Explanation of Scheme categories:

- **museums with full Accreditation** have demonstrated that they meet the Accreditation Standard, and are actively addressing any areas for improvement identified during their initial assessment or regular monitoring review and requested by an Accreditation panel.
- **museums with provisional Accreditation** have demonstrated that they meet the majority of the Accreditation Standard, and are actively resolving those required actions

requested by an Accreditation panel to ensure they meet those sections of the Standard not yet met. On completion of these required actions, the museum would normally return to an Accreditation panel with a recommendation for full status.

- **excluded museums** are those that deliberately remove themselves from the shared ethical basis of the scheme by consciously contravening the Standard. An Accreditation panel will have agreed this status following the receipt of a recommendation for exclusion from an expert assessor.

Management of the Accreditation Scheme for museums and galleries in the UK was transferred to Arts Council England on 1 October 2011. It was previously administered by the Museums Libraries and Archives Council. A revised Accreditation Standard was published on 3 October 2011, developed through consultation with stakeholders and the museum community. This can be accessed through the Arts Council England website: http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/what-we-do/supporting-museums/accreditation-scheme/.

The status of museums is regularly reviewed and where appropriate they are removed from the scheme. Typical reasons for removal are:

- **closure**: the collection has been transferred elsewhere

- **change of function**: ineligible for participation, no longer a museum

- **serious disaster**: for example a catastrophic fire – no longer in a position to continue as a museum

- **merger**: combined with another organisation delivering similar objectives that is already participating with the scheme

- **capacity**: some museums are not able to meet the Standard

Where a museum is removed, assessors will inform advisors of the reason, so appropriate support and guidance can be provided. Removal from the scheme is not comparable to being excluded.

2 Data tables and analysis

Number of museums in the Scheme (table 2.1 and Figure 1)

The total number of museums in the Scheme has decreased between February 2015 and February 2016, from 1730 to 1723.

Between February 2015 and February 2016 the number of fully Accredited museums decreased from 1580 to 1566 and now account for 90.9% of all museums within the Scheme.

The number of museums holding provisional status has increased, from 150 museums (8.7% of participants) in February 2015 to 157 museums (9.1% of participants) in February 2016.

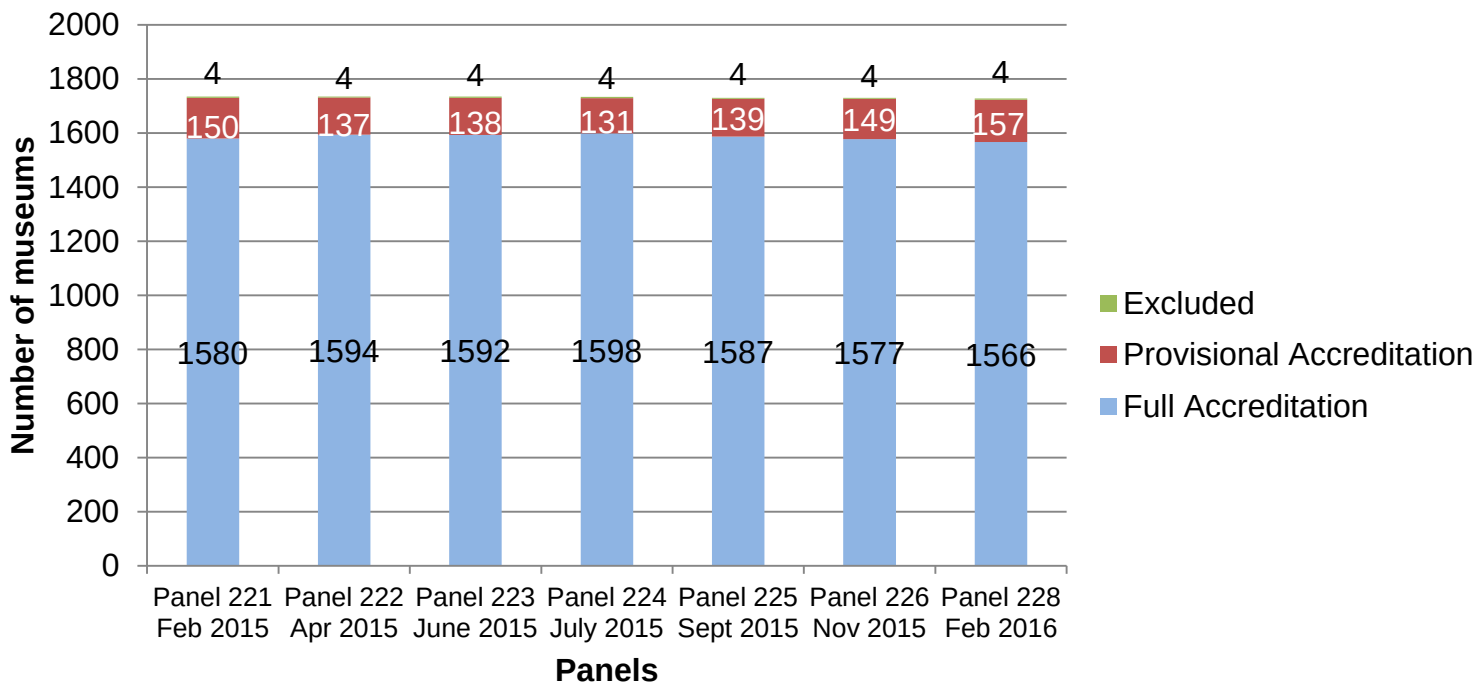
26 new applicants to the Scheme have achieved full Accreditation since February 2015.

The Registration Scheme closed in June 2010.

Table 2.1: Number of museums and galleries in the Accreditation Scheme (by Scheme category)

	Feb 2015		Apr 2015		June 2015		July 2015		Sep 2015		Nov 2015		Feb 2016	
	No.	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**
Full Accreditation	1580	91.3	1594	92.1	1592	92.0	1598	92.4	1587	91.9	1577	91.4	1566	90.9
Provisional Accreditation	150	8.7	137	7.9	138	8.0	131	7.6	139	8.1	149	8.6	157	9.1
Total Scheme	**1730**	**100.0**	**1731**	**100.0**	**1730**	**100.0**	**1729**	**100.0**	**1726**	**100.0**	**1726**	**100.0**	**1723**	**100.0**
Excluded	4		4		4		4		4		4		4	

Figure 1 – Number of Museums in the Accreditation Scheme by category



Location and status of UK museums in the Scheme
(Tables 2.2 and 2.4, Figures 2 and 4)

As of February 2016, England has the largest number of museums participating in the Accreditation Scheme (1312, or 76.1% of participating museums), which is expected given its relative size.

There are 249 participants from Scotland (14.5% of participating museums), 98 participants from Wales (5.7%), 43 participants from Northern Ireland (2.5%), 11 participants from the Isle of Man (0.6%), and 10 participants from the Channel Islands (0.6%).

10.4% of Accredited museums in England hold the provisional award (136 museums).

2.3% of Accredited museums in Northern Ireland hold the provisional award (one museum).

7.2% of Accredited museums in Scotland hold the provisional award (18 museums).

2.0% of Accredited museums in Wales hold the provisional award (two museums).

There are currently no provisionally Accredited museums in the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man.

Location of English museums in the Scheme
(Table 2.3 and Figure 3)

Of the English regions, the South East has the most participants in the Accreditation Scheme (17.8% of Accredited museums in England), followed by the South West (14.9%), the East of England (12.4%), Yorkshire (10.8%), the North West (10.7%), the West Midlands (10.6%), London (10.1%), the East Midlands (7.6%), and the North East (4.9%).

Table 2.2: Number of museums and galleries in the Accreditation Scheme by location

	Feb 2015		Apr 2015		June 2015		July 2015		Sept 2015		Nov 2015		Feb 2016	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
England	1315	76.0	1316	76.0	1315	76.0	1313	75.9	1311	76.0	1312	76.0	1312	76.1
Northern Ireland	42	2.4	43	2.5	43	2.5	43	2.5	43	2.5	43	2.5	43	2.5
Scotland	256	14.8	254	14.7	254	14.7	255	14.7	254	14.7	252	14.6	249	14.5
Wales	96	5.5	97	5.6	97	5.6	97	5.6	97	5.6	98	5.7	98	5.7
Isle of Man	11	0.6	11	0.6	11	0.6	11	0.6	11	0.6	11	0.6	11	0.6
Channel Islands	10	0.6	10	0.6	10	0.6	10	0.6	10	0.6	10	0.6	10	0.6
Total Scheme	**1735**	**99.9***	**1730**	**99.9***	**1731**	**100.0**	**1730**	**100.0**	**1726**	**100.0**	**1726**	**100.0**	**1723**	**100.0**

* Total scheme percentage does not equal 100% because of data rounding

Table 2.3: Number of museums and galleries in the Accreditation Scheme by English region

	Feb 2015		Apr 2015		June 2015		July 2015		Sept 2015		Nov 2015		Feb 2016	
	No.	%**	No.	%**	No.	%**	No.	%**	No.	%**	No.	%**	No.	%**
East	161	12.2	162	12.3	162	12.3	162	12.3	162	12.4	162	12.3	163	12.4
East Midlands	100	7.6	101	7.7	100	7.6	100	7.6	101	7.7	101	7.7	100	7.6
London	134	10.2	134	10.2	134	10.2	133	10.1	133	10.1	133	10.1	133	10.1
North East	64	4.9	64	4.9	65	4.9	65	5.0	65	5.0	65	5.0	64	4.9
North West	144	11.0	144	10.9	144	11.0	144	11.0	142	10.8	142	10.8	141	10.7
South East	234	17.8	235	17.9	234	17.8	233	17.7	233	17.8	233	17.8	234	17.8
South West	194	14.8	194	14.7	194	14.8	194	14.8	195	14.9	196	14.9	196	14.9
West Midlands	139	10.6	138	10.5	138	10.5	138	10.5	137	10.5	138	10.5	139	10.6
Yorkshire	145	11.0	144	10.9	144	11.0	144	11.0	143	10.9	142	10.8	142	10.8
Total England	**1315**	**100.1***	**1316**	**100.0**	**1315**	**100.1***	**1313**	**100.0**	**1311**	**100.0***	**1312**	**100.0**	**1312**	**100.0**

* Total scheme percentage does not equal 100% because of data rounding
** Percentage of total Accredited museums in England
† Change due to correction in the data

Figure 2 - Number of museums and galleries in the Accreditation Scheme by location (February 2016)

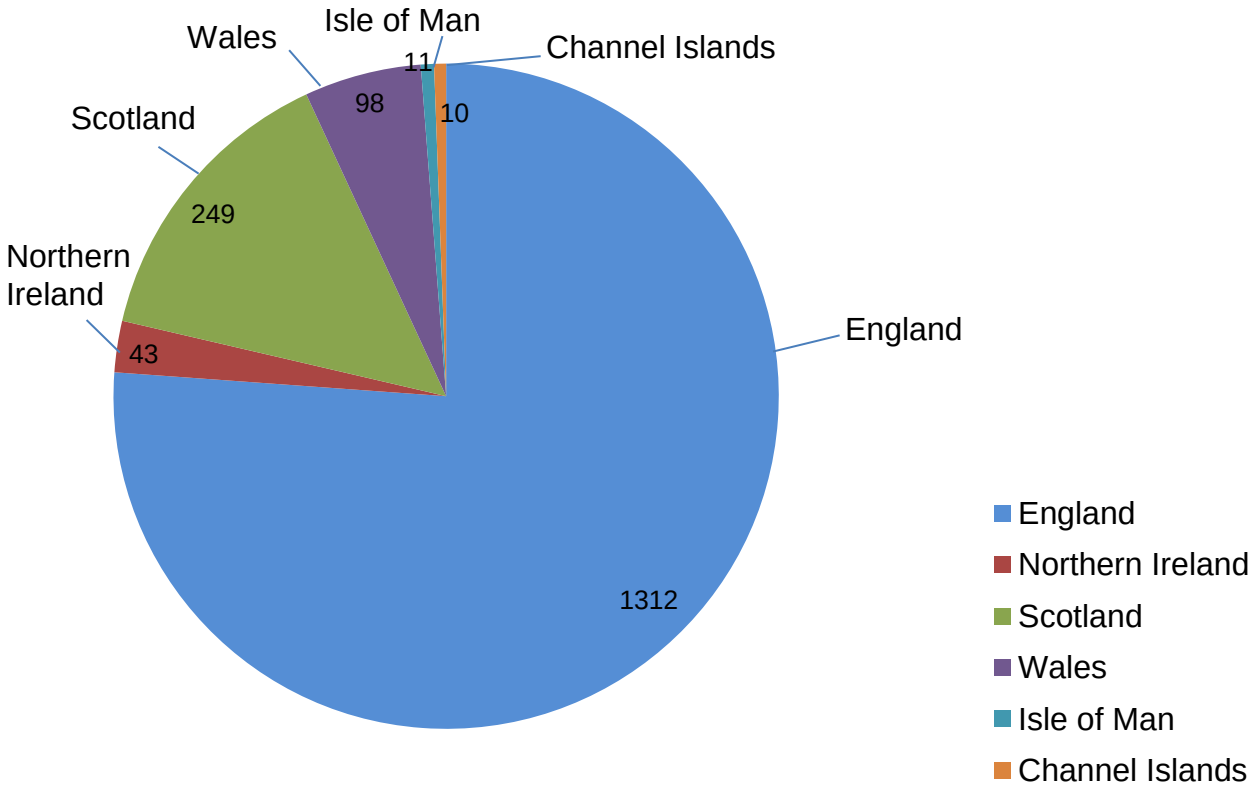
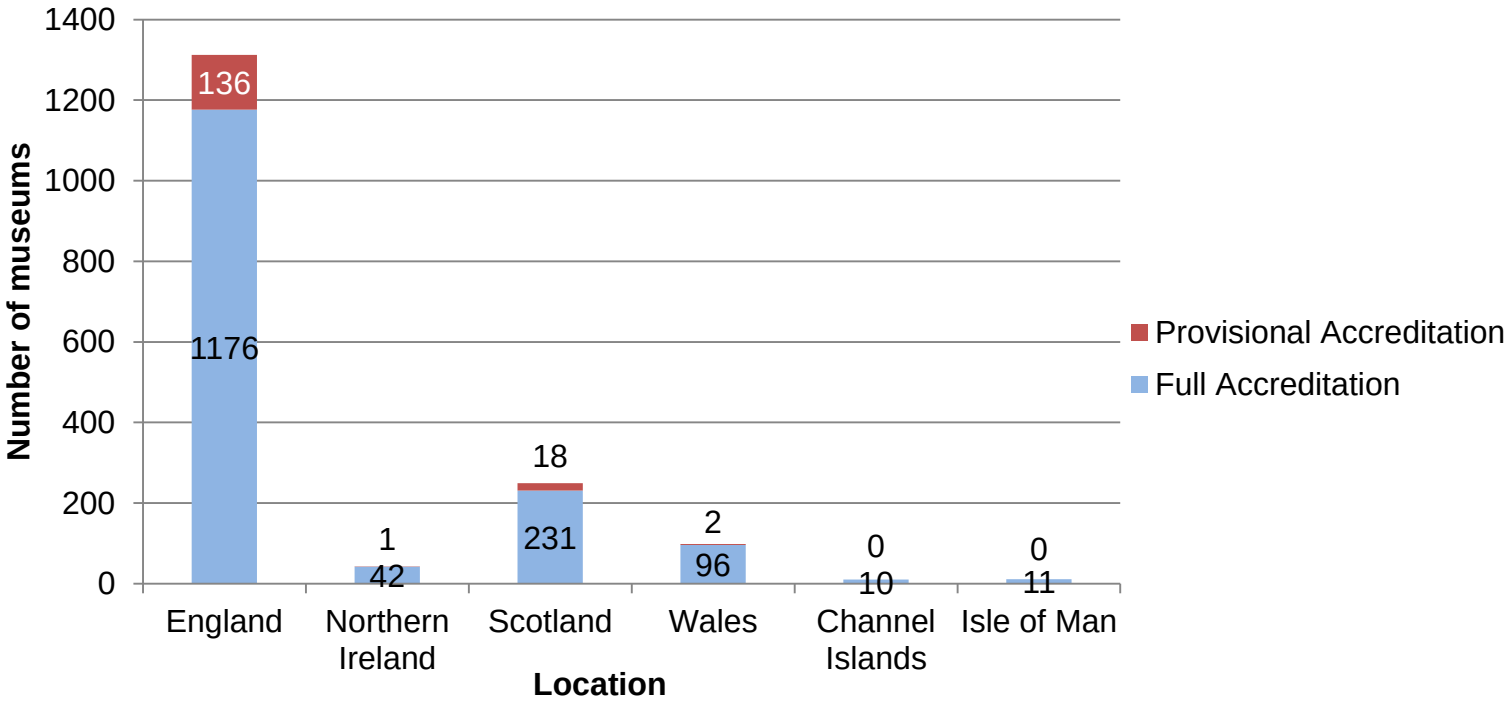


Figure 3 – Number of museums and galleries in the Accreditation Scheme in England by English region (February 2016)

Table 2.4: Number of museums and galleries in the Accreditation Scheme by status and location (February 2016)

	England		Northern Ireland		Scotland		Wales		Channel Islands		Isle of Man		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Full Accreditation	1176	89.6	42	97.7	231	92.8	96	98.0	10	100.0	11	100.0	1566	90.9
Provisional Accreditation	136	10.4	1	2.3	18	7.2	2	2.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	157	9.1
Total Scheme	**1312**	**100.0**	**43**	**100.0**	**249**	**100.0**	**98**	**100.0**	**10**	**100.0**	**11**	**100.0**	**1723**	**100.0**

Figure 4 – Number of Museums in the Accreditation Scheme by status and location (February 2016)



Ownership type of museums in the Scheme (Tables 2.5 and 2.6, Figures 5-10)

As of February 2016 there are 943 independent museums within the Accreditation Scheme in the UK, of which 144 are managed by The National Trust and 9 by the National Trust Scotland. Independent charities (including National Trust and National Trust Scotland managed museums) make up the majority of museums within the Accreditation Scheme (54.7% of participating museums).

The second most frequent type of museum is Local Authority owned with 527 museums – approximately a third (30.6%) of participating museums.

There are 73 national museum venues within the Scheme, accounting for 4.2% of participating museums. All 11 museums within the Scheme from the Isle of Man are classified as national museums.

The remaining museums in the Scheme are military, university or public heritage body-owned.

Between February 2015 and February 2016 the number of Accredited Local Authority owned museums decreased by 5.4% from 557 Local Authority owned museums to 527 Local Authority owned museums. The number of Accredited independent museums (including National Trust and National Trust Scotland) increased by 2.8% from 917 independent museums to 943 independent museums. The number of Accredited museums considered to be national museums decreased by 3.9% from 76 national museums to 73 national museums. The number of Accredited military museums decreased by 1.6% from 64 to 63 military museums. The number of Accredited university museums decreased by 1.2% from 81 museums to 80 museums. The number of Accredited public heritage body-owned museums increased by 5.7% from 35 museums to 37 museums.

Table 2.5: Number of museums and galleries in the Accreditation Scheme by ownership type and location (February 2016)

	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	Channel Islands	Isle of Man	Total	
Local Authority	372	21	94	37	3	0	**527**	**30.6%**
Independent	631	9	107	36	7	0	**790**	**45.9%**
Independent: National Trust	125	7	0	12	0	0	**144**	**8.4%**
Independent: National Trust Scotland	0	0	9	0	0	0	**9**	**0.5%**
Military	51	3	7	2	0	0	**63**	**3.7%**
University	55	0	21	4	0	0	**80**	**4.6%**
National Museum	44	3	8	7	0	11	**73**	**4.2%**
English Heritage	34	0	0	0	0	0	**34**	**2.0%**
Historic Scotland	0	0	3	0	0	0	**3**	**0.2%**
Total Scheme	**1312**	**43**	**249**	**98**	**10**	**11**	**1723**	**100.1%***

* Total scheme percentage does not equal 100% because of data rounding

Table 2.6: Number of museums and galleries in the Accreditation Scheme by ownership type (February 2015 – February 2016)

	Feb 2015		April 2015		June 2015		July 2015		Sept 2015		Nov 2015		Feb 2016	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Local Authority	557	32.2	558	32.2	535	30.9	533	30.8	530	30.7	529	30.6	527	30.6
Independent	763	44.1	766	44.3	787	45.5	790	45.7	790	45.8	791	45.8	790	45.9
Independent: National Trust	145	8.4	145	8.4	145	8.4	144	8.3	144	8.3	144	8.3	144	8.4
Independent: National Trust Scotland	9	0.5	9	0.5	9	0.5	9	0.5	9	0.5	9	0.5	9	0.5
Military	64	3.7	63	3.6	63	3.6	63	3.6	63	3.7	63	3.7	63	3.7
University	81	4.7	81	4.7	81	4.7	80	4.6	80	4.6	80	4.6	80	4.6
National Museum	76	4.4	74**	4.3	74	4.3	73	4.2	73	4.2	73	4.2	73	4.2
English Heritage	33	1.9	33	1.9	33	1.9	34	2.0	34	2.0	34	2.0	34	2.0
Historic Scotland	2	0.1	2	0.1	3	0.2	3	0.2	3	0.2	3	0.2	3	0.2
Total Scheme	**1730**	**100.0**	**1731**	**100.0**	**1730**	**100.0**	**1729**	**100.0**	**1726**	**100.0**	**1726**	**100.0**	**1723**	**100.1***

* Total scheme percentage does not equal 100% because of data rounding
** Change due to correction in the data

Figure 5 – Number of Museums in the Accreditation Scheme by type across the UK (February 2016)

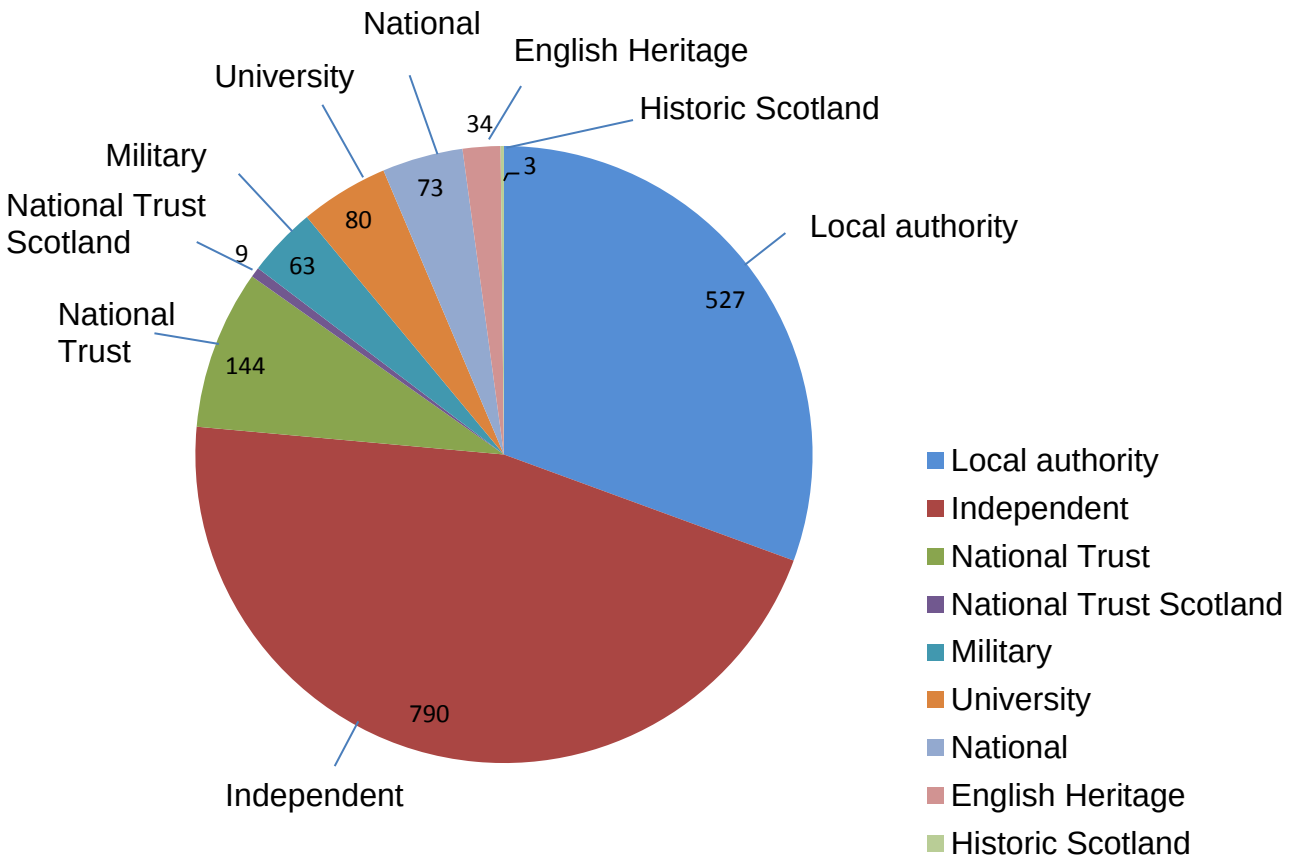


Figure 6 – Number of Museums in the Accreditation Scheme by type across England (February 2016)

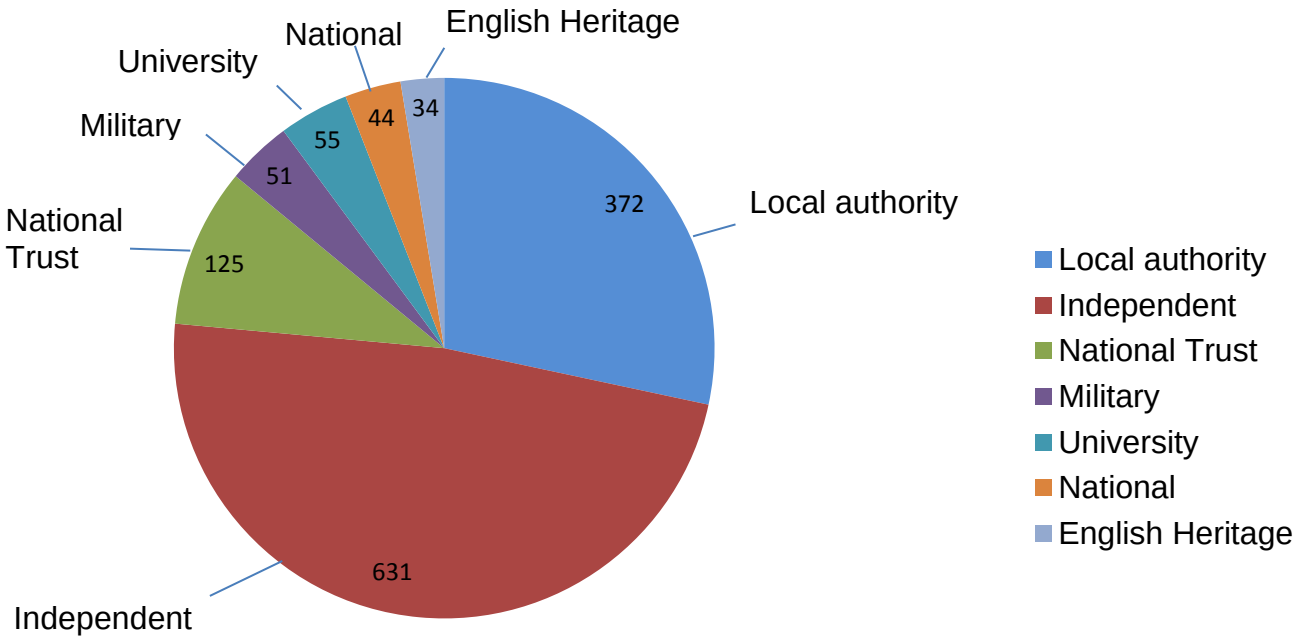


Figure 7 – Number of Museums in the Accreditation Scheme by type across Northern Ireland (February 2016)

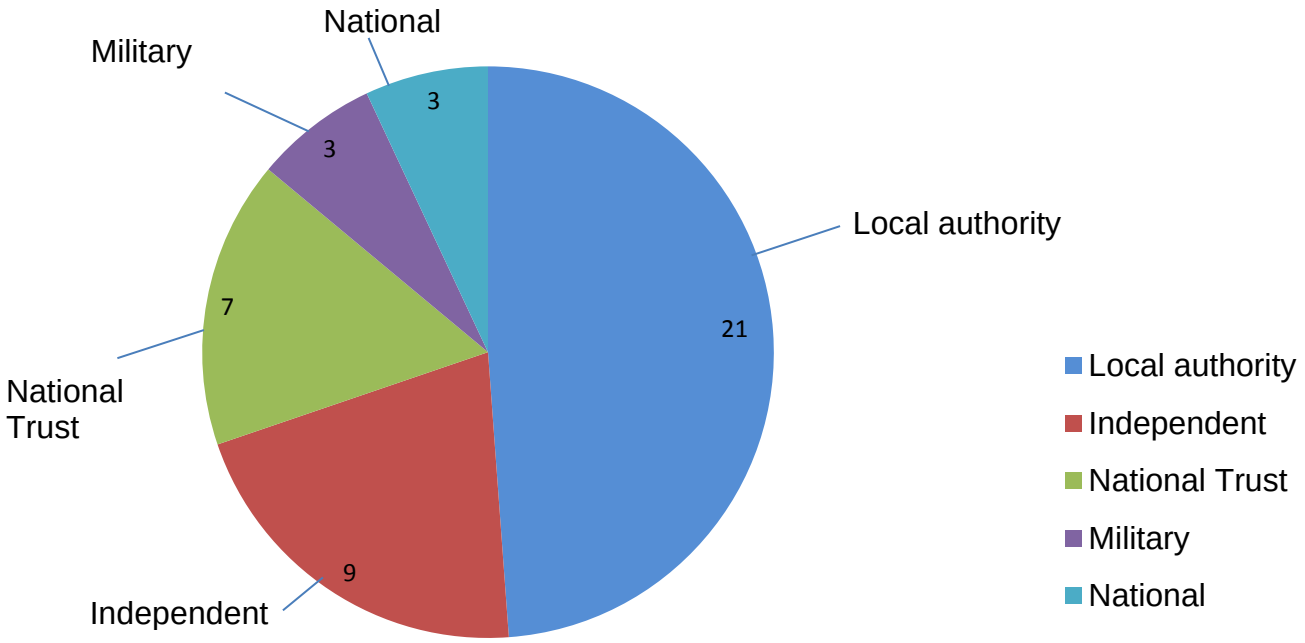


Figure 8 – Number of Museums in the Accreditation Scheme by type across Scotland (February 2016)

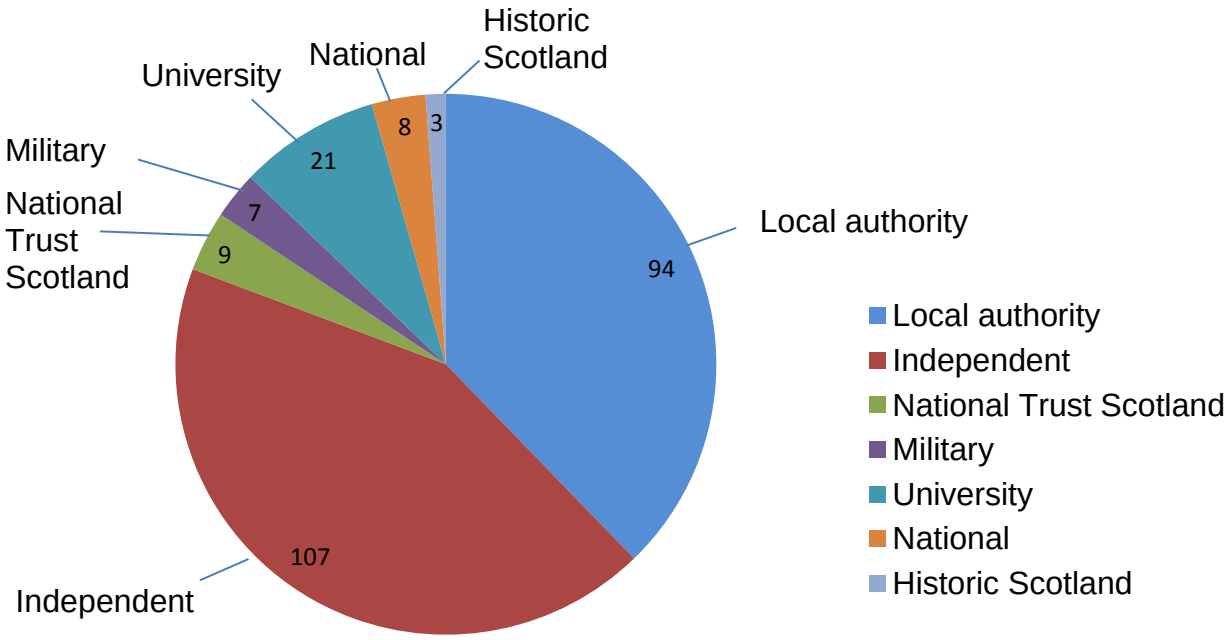


Figure 9 – Number of Museums in the Accreditation Scheme by type across Wales (February 2016)

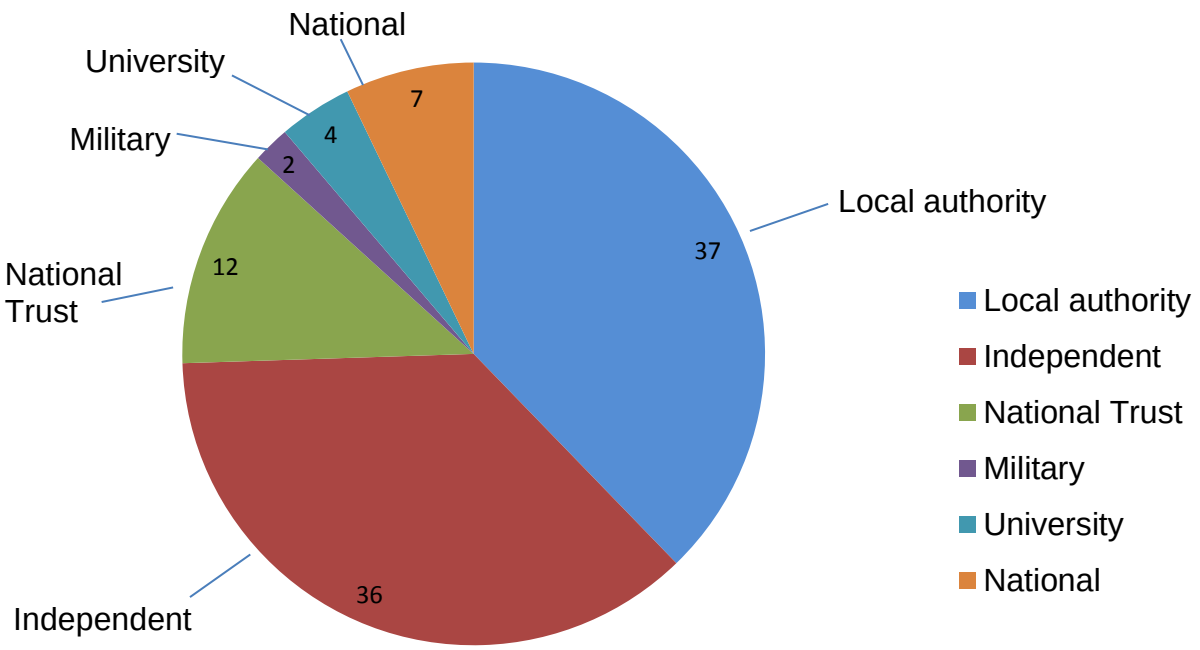
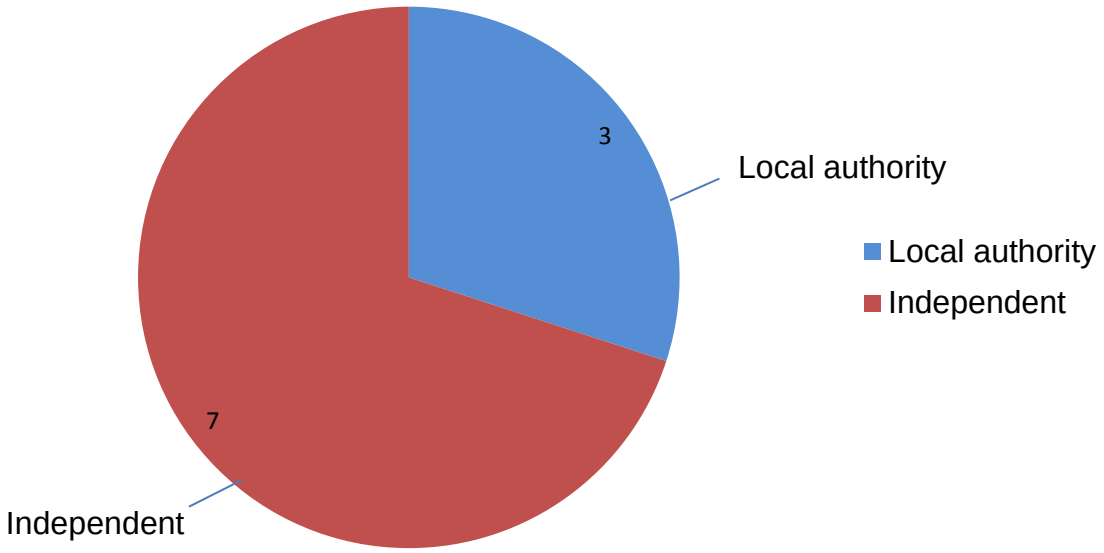


Figure 10 – Number of Museums in the Accreditation Scheme by type across the Channel Islands (February 2016)



100% of museums in the Accreditation Scheme in the Isle of Man are classified as national museums.

Museums in the UK working towards Accreditation (Tables 2.7 and 2.8)

Museums interested in applying for Accreditation initially have to complete an eligibility questionnaire. Once the appropriate assessing organisation has confirmed that a museum is eligible to apply for Accreditation, they are invited to submit an application within 12 months in the first instance, then reviewed to ensure that progress is being made.

During this period museums are classed as working towards Accreditation.

While administration of the Accreditation Scheme transferred to Arts Council England, from 2010 until October 2011 the Scheme was closed to new applicants. Since the Scheme reopened to applicants in October 2011 205 eligibility questionnaires have been received. 16 have been assessed as ineligible or withdrawn from working towards Accreditation, and 12 eligibility questionnaires are currently under assessment. 89 museums have submitted Accreditation applications, and 64 of those museums have since achieved full Accreditation. There are 112 museums currently working towards Accreditation.

Table 2.7: Number of museums and galleries working towards Accreditation by location

	Working towards Accreditation	New applications received since October 2011
England	89	60
Northern Ireland	1	5
Scotland	9	11
Wales	14	14
Isle of Man	0	0
Channel Islands	0	0
Total Scheme	**113**	**90**

Table 2.8: Breakdown of museums and galleries working towards Accreditation by English regions.

	Working towards Accreditation	New applications received since October 2011
East	4	6
East Midlands	13	8
London	15	8
North East	2	2
North West	4	4
South East	25	15
South West	18	9
West Midlands	5	6
Yorkshire	3	2
Total England	**89**	**60**

Number of cases at panel meetings (Tables 2.9 and 2.10, Figures 11 and 12)

Between February 2015 and February 2016, 648 cases were presented to panels of the Accreditation Committee.

70.1% of cases concerned museums that have submitted a return application to have their Accreditation status renewed.

19.9% of cases related to museums that had previously achieved provisional Accreditation, assessing whether they had met the provisional conditions of their award.

4.0% of cases concerned museums that were applying to become Accredited for the first time, or to re-join the scheme after a long period of absence.

6.0% of cases concerned the removal of museums from the Accreditation Scheme that were no longer complying with the requirements of the 2011 Accreditation Standard.

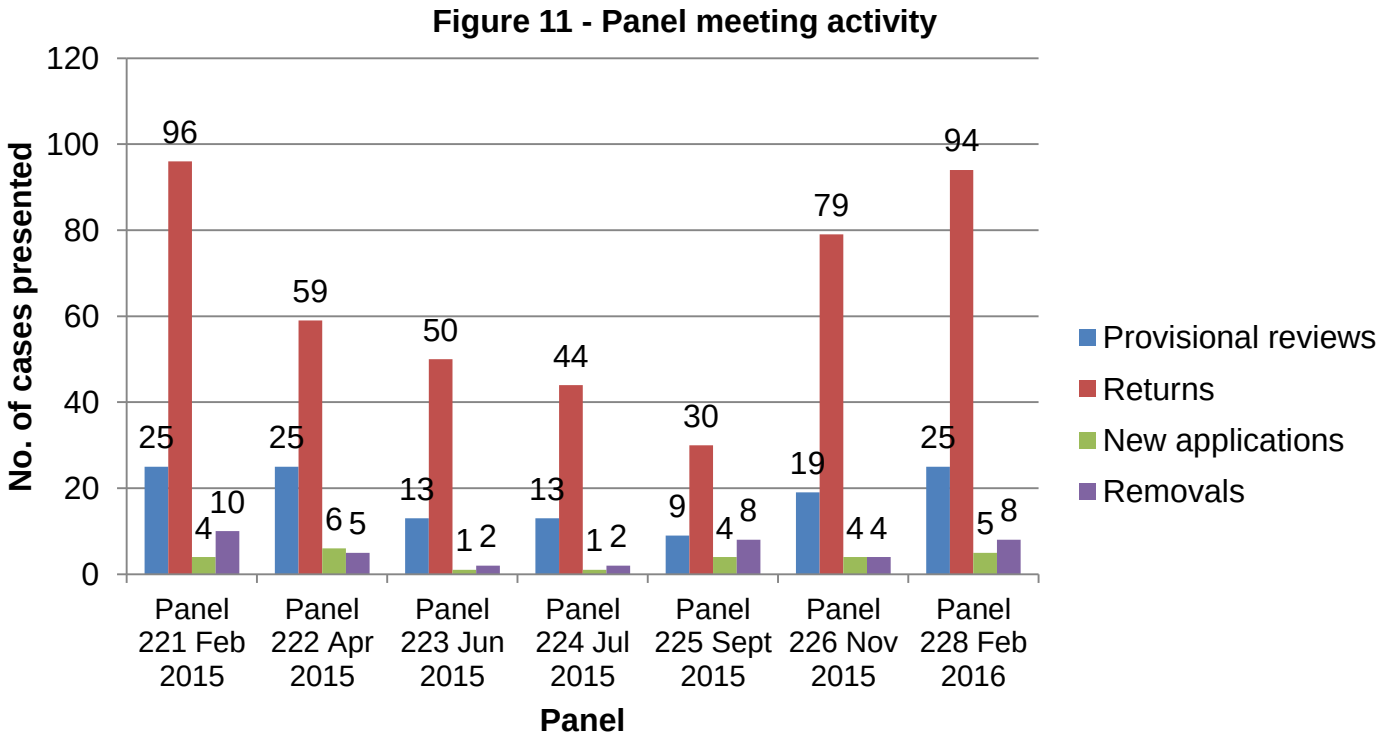
Of the cases that concerned return applications, 77.3% resulted in the outcome of full Accreditation for the returning museum, and 22.7% resulted in the outcome of provisional Accreditation.

More information about the Accreditation Committee is available on our website: http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/what-we-do/supporting-museums/accreditation-scheme/accreditation-committee/.

Table 2.9: Panel meetings activity (Feb 2015 – Feb 2016)

	Feb 2015		Apr 2015		June 2015		July 2015		Sept 2015		Nov 2015		Feb 2016		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Provisional reviews	25	18.5	25	25.2	13	19.7	13	21.7	9	17.6	19	17.6	25	18.8	**129**	**20.0**
Returns	96	71.1	59	63.1	50	75.8	44	73.3	30**	60.8	79**	75.0	94	70.7	**452**	**70.1**
New applications	4	3.0	6	6.3	1	1.5	1	1.7	4	7.8	4	3.7	5	4.5	**25**	**3.9**
Removals	10	7.4	5	5.3	2	3.0	2	3.3	8**	13.7	4	3.7	8	6.0	**39**	**6.0**
Total	**135**	**100.0**	**95**	**99.9***	**66**	**100.0**	**60**	**100.0**	**51**	**100.0**	**106****	**100.0**	**132**	**100.0**	**645**	**100.0**

* Total scheme percentage does not equal 100% because of data rounding
**Change due to correction in the data



Outcomes of return assessments

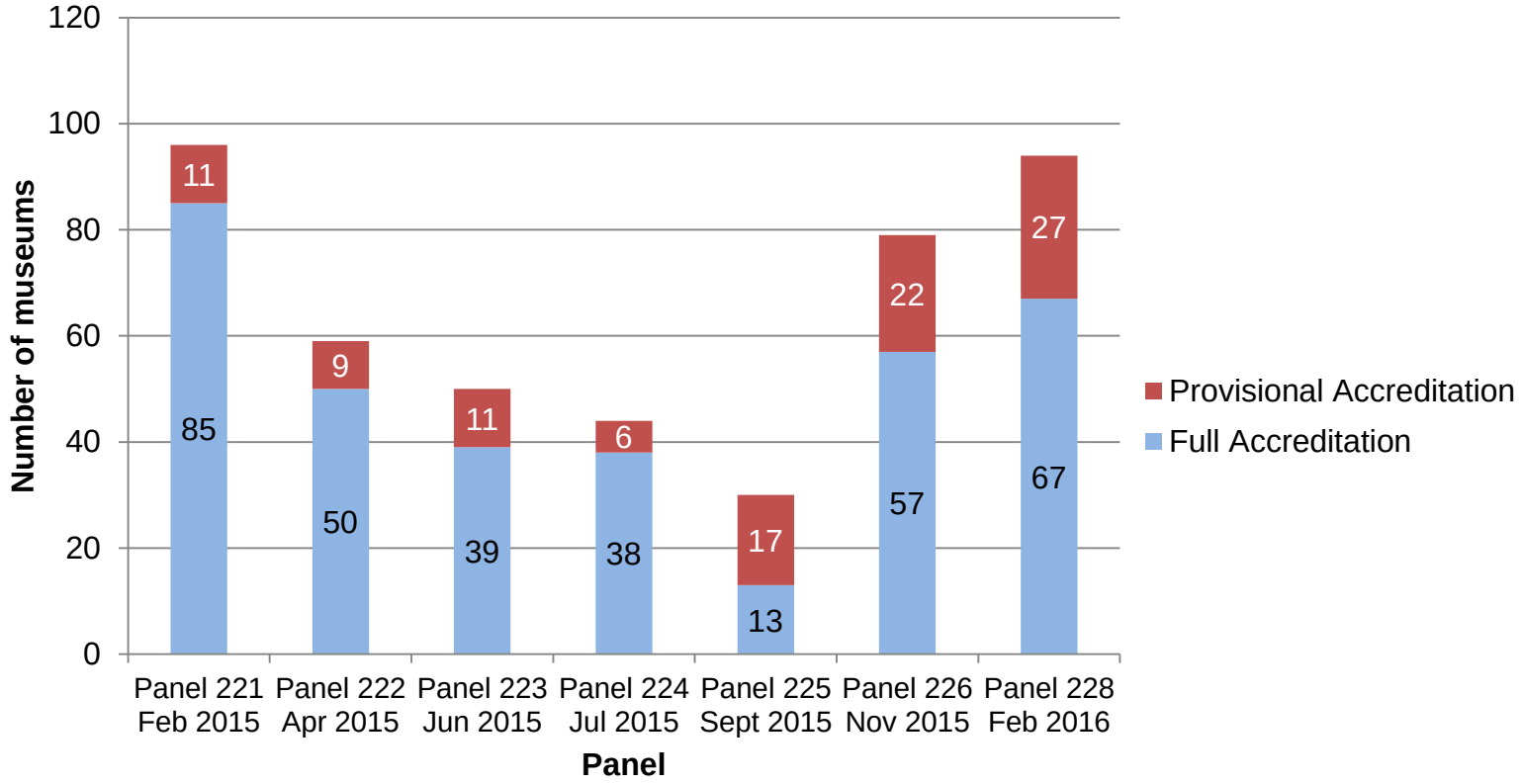
Table 2.10: Return outcomes at each panel meeting (Feb 2015 – Feb 2016)

	Feb 2015		Apr 2015		June 2015		July 2015		Sept 2015		Nov 2015		Feb 2016		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Full	85	88.5	50	84.7	39	78.0	38	86.4	13**	56.8	57**	72.8	67	71.3	**349**	**77.2**
Provisional	11	11.5	9	15.2	11	22.0	6	13.6	17**	43.2	22	27.2	27	28.7	**103**	**22.8**
Total	**96**	**100.0**	**59**	**99.9***	**50**	**100.0**	**44**	**100.0**	**30****	**100.0**	**79****	**100.0**	**94**	**100.0**	**452**	**100.0**

* Total scheme percentage does not equal 100% because of data rounding

**Change due to correction in the data

Figure 12 - Returns outcomes at each panel meeting



3 Background Notes

Accreditation

For more information about the Accreditation Scheme see:
http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/what-we-do/supporting-museums/accreditation-scheme/
[checked 2015-11-26]

4 Enquiries

This report has been produced by Charlene Price and Jonathon Blackburn. For enquiries contact:

Arts Council England
The Foundry
82 Granville Street
Birmingham
B1 2LH

Email: accreditation@artscouncil.org.uk