

# Statistical report: Museum Accreditation

September 2019 meeting update



## Headline figures:

- Between September 2018 to September 2019 there was an increase in the total number of museums in the scheme (1734 to 1744).
- During the same period, 65.9% of museums whose Accreditation returns were considered by a panel were awarded Full Accreditation.
- In September 2019, 1571 museums in the scheme held Full Accreditation (90.1%). This is a small decrease (-10) compared to this point last year.

This report provides further detail on panel meetings at nation, governance and accreditation status between 2018 and 2019. Older reports can be accessed on from [Arts Council England](#). These series of reports are published as an Official Statistic by Arts Council England.

## About the Museum Accreditation Scheme

This report summarises data about the Museums Accreditation Scheme (the scheme) between September 2018 and September 2019.

The Museum Accreditation Scheme is the UK industry standard for museums and galleries. It tells everyone involved with a museum that they're doing the right things to help people to engage with collections and protect them for the future. The Museum Accreditation Scheme does this by making sure museums manage their collections properly, engage with visitors, and are governed appropriately. The scheme works for museums of all sizes: from the smallest volunteer-run museums to national museums.

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. Arts Council England works in partnership with Museums Galleries Scotland, Welsh Government and Northern Ireland Museums Council to deliver the scheme. A revised Accreditation Standard was published on 3 October 2011, developed through consultation with stakeholders and the museum community. A further review of the Accreditation Standard took place during 2017 and 2018, with the latest Standard being published on 1 November 2018. You can find out more about the new standard here:

<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/accreditation-scheme/support-and-advice#section-3>



**Museums  
Galleries  
Scotland**  
Supporting Scotland's Museums



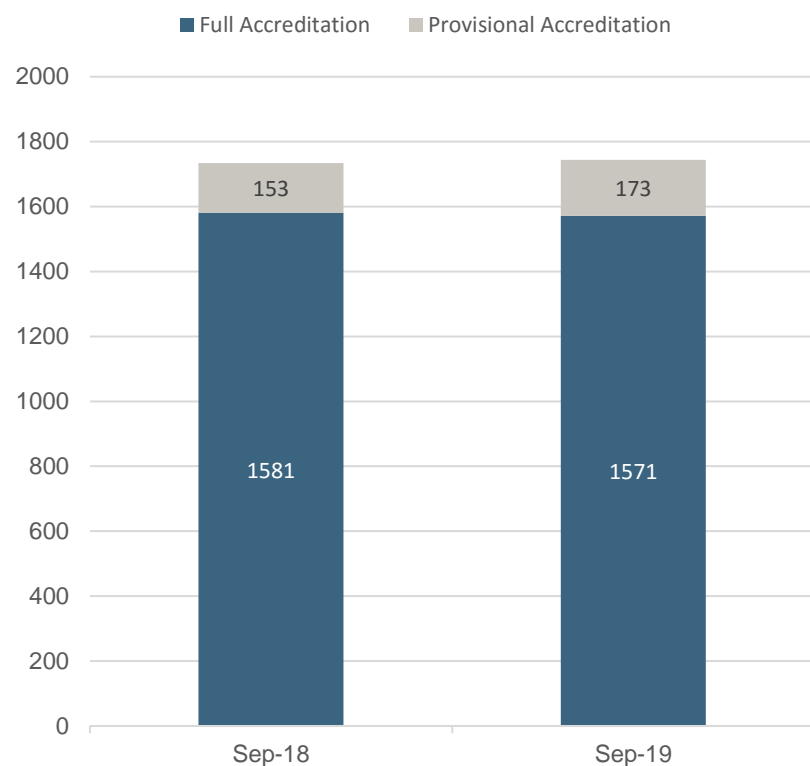
Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government



## An overview of the Scheme

### Museums in the Scheme

**Figure 1: Over the last year there has been a decrease in the number of museums that hold Full Accreditation, alongside an overall increase in numbers of museums in the Scheme.**



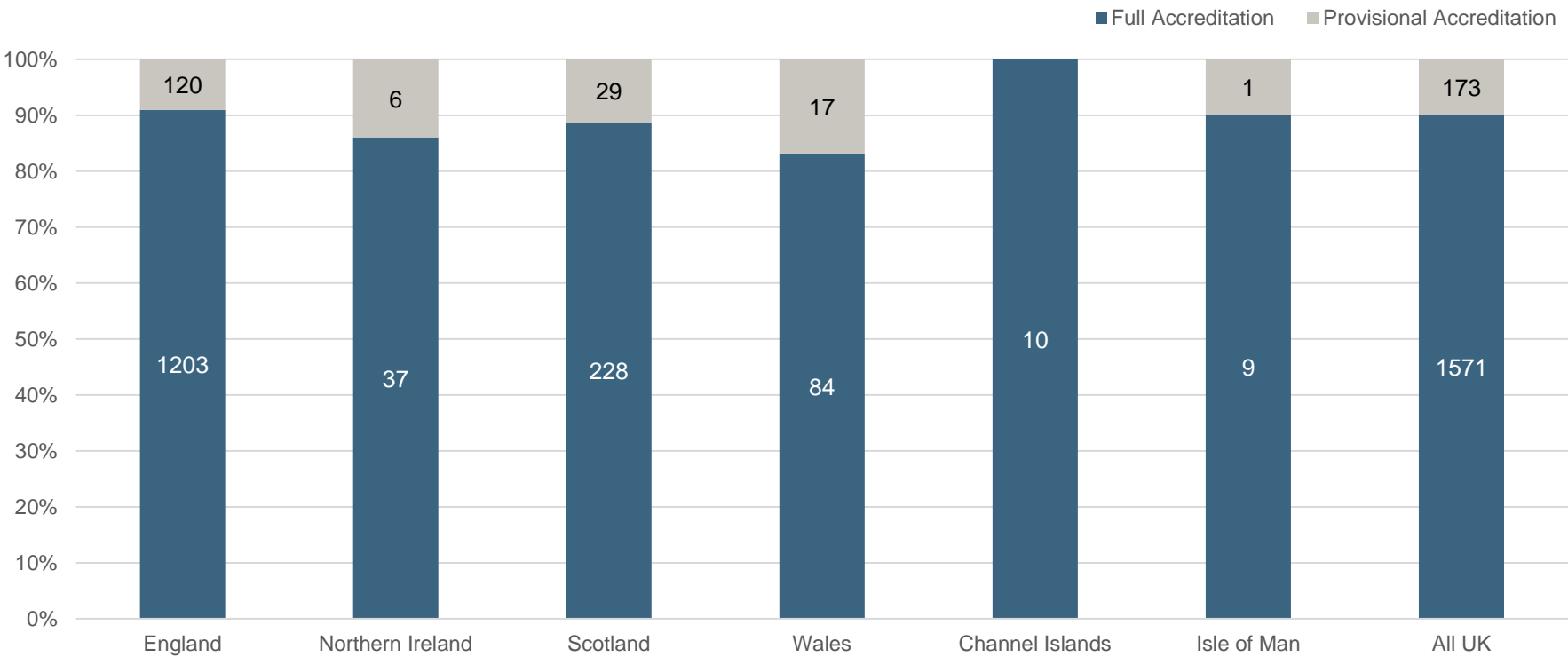
Between September 2018 and September 2019, there was a decrease of ten (-10) in the number of museums awarded Full Accreditation.

This means that 90.1% of the 1744 museums within the Scheme have demonstrated that they meet the full requirements of the scheme and have been approved by the assessing panel.

When looking at all museums in the Scheme, including those within provisional Accreditation, there has been an increase in the overall number of museums in the scheme from 1734 to 1744.

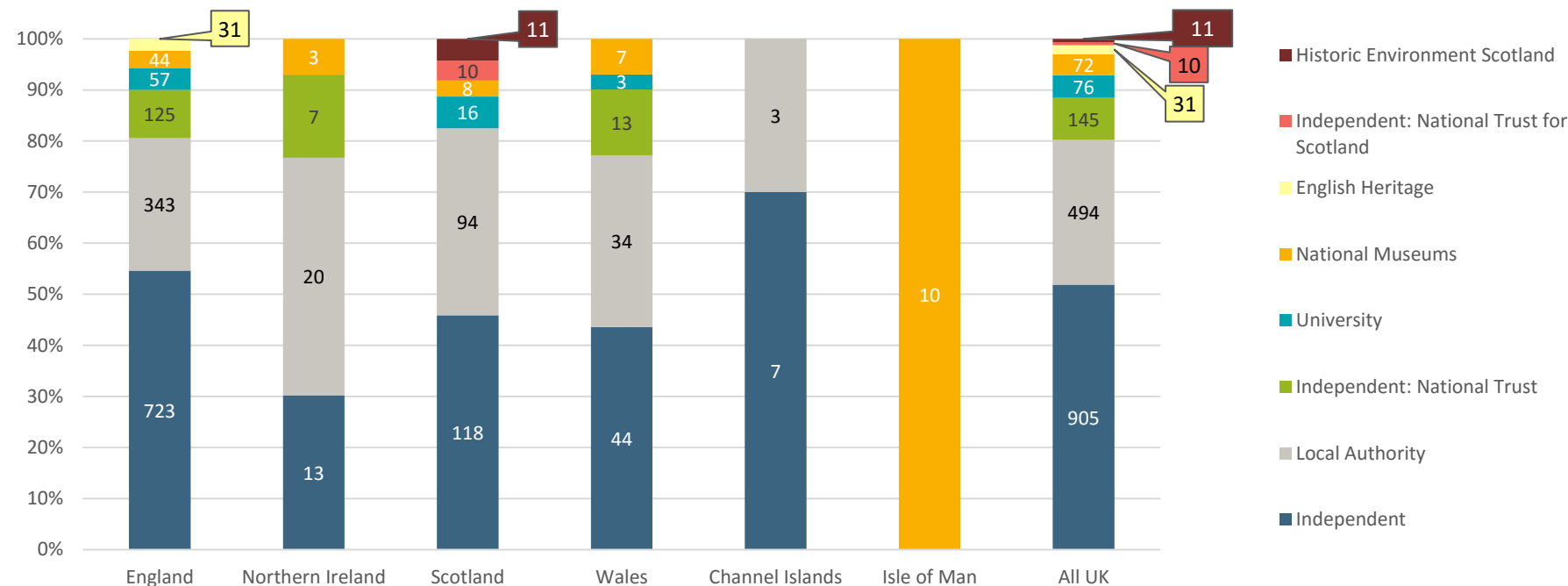
Accreditation by Nation

Figure 2: In September 2019 there were more museums with Full Accreditation than Provisional Accreditation in all UK nations



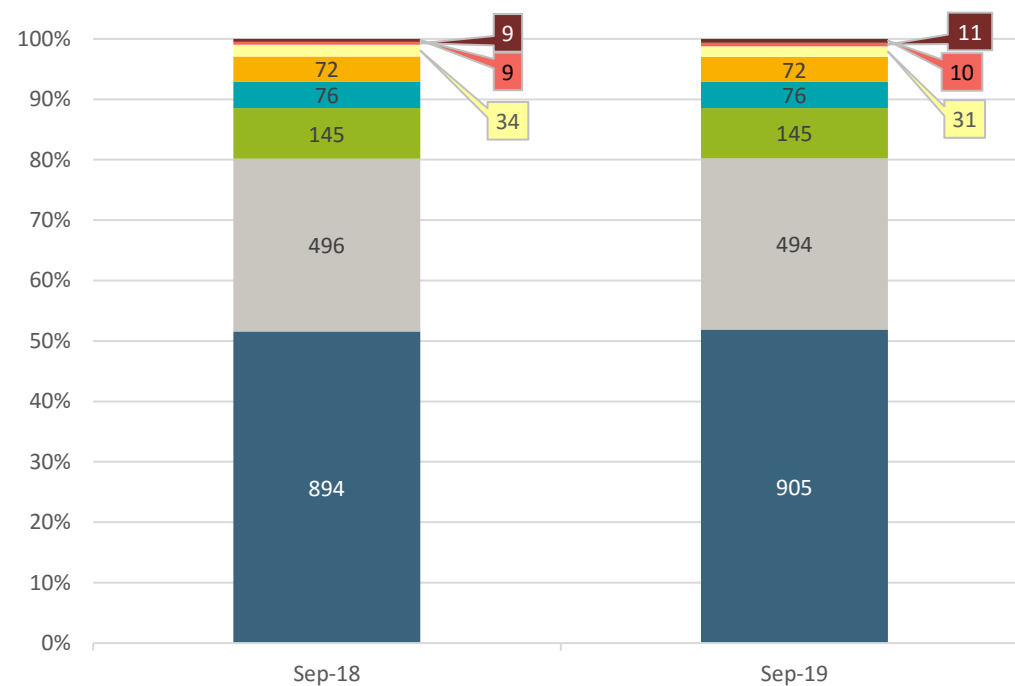
**Museum Governance**

**Figure 3: The largest group of Accredited museums in most UK nations is independents (September 2019)**



Independent museums make up the largest share of Accredited museums in most UK nations, and they make up more than half (51.9%) of the total UK museums in the Scheme.

**Figure 4: Governance types of museums in the Scheme has changed over the previous year**



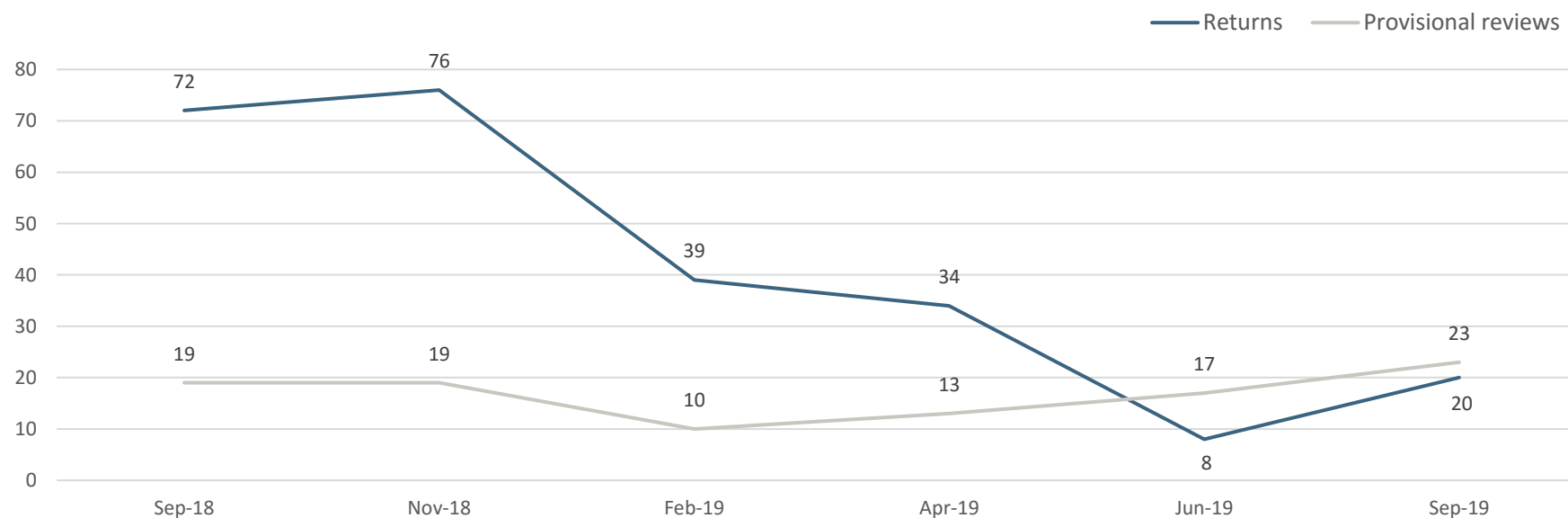
Governance	Change 18-19
Historic Environment Scotland	▲ + 2
National Trust Scotland	▲ + 1
English Heritage	▼ - 3
National	=
University	=
National Trust	=
Local Authority	▼ - 2
Independent	▲ + 11

The number of independent museums increased by 1.2%, from 894 to 905 between September 2018 and September 2019.

## **Return applications and reviews**

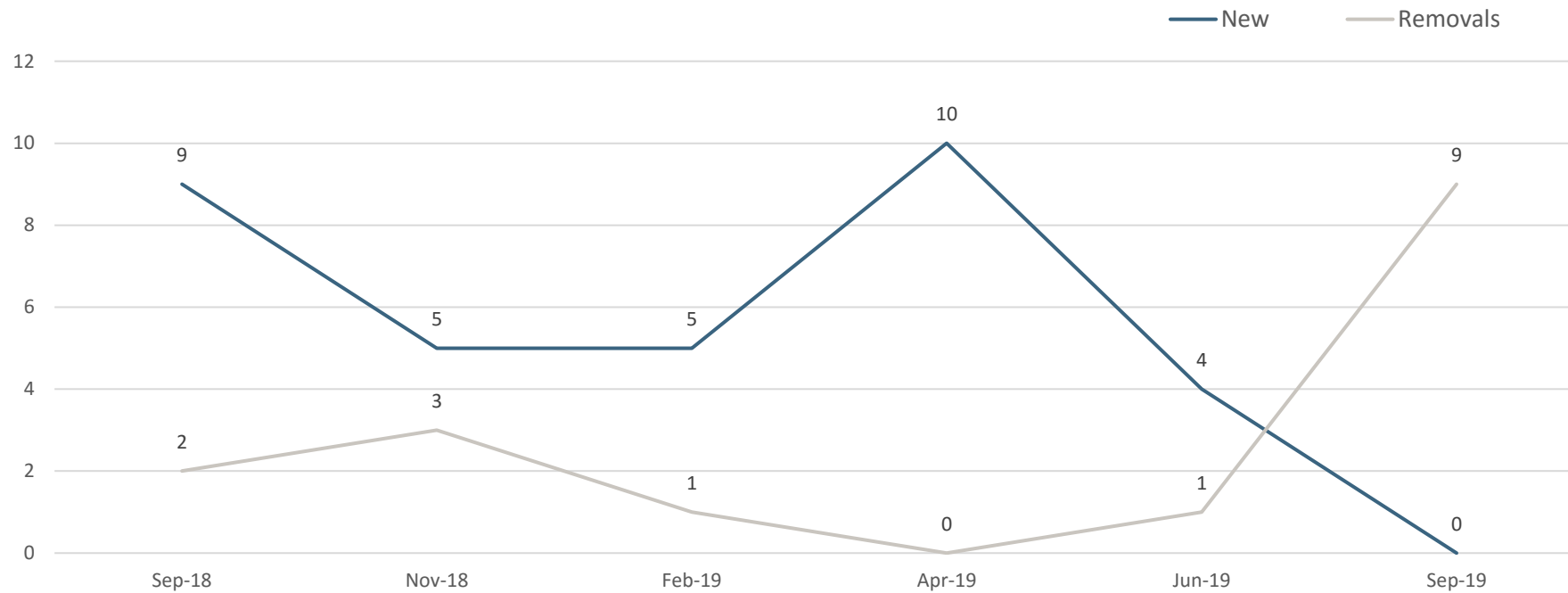
Between September 2018 and September 2019 (inclusive), 399 cases were presented to the panels of the Accreditation committee. These cases consisted of return applications, provisional reviews, new applications and removals. More information regarding cases at panels and panel outcomes, including reasons for removal, can be found on pages 14 – 17.

**Figure 5: The number of return assessments has decreased as the scheme moves to the 2018 Accreditation Standard**



The number of returns has decreased as remaining assessments against the 2011 Accreditation Standard have been completed. The number of returns is expected to rise as museums begin to submit against the 2018 Accreditation Standard.

**Figure 6: New applications and removals from the scheme**



In September 2019 reasons for removal from the scheme included museum closures, mergers, and museums withdrawing from the scheme.

## Appendix 1: Museums in the Scheme

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.

Number of museums and galleries in the Accreditation Scheme (September 2018 – September 2019)

	Sep-18		Nov-18		Feb-19		Apr-19		Jun-19		Sep-19	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Full Accreditation	1581	91.2	1567	90.3	1569	90.2	1564	89.3	1574	89.8	1571	90.1
Provisional Accreditation	153	8.8	169	9.7	171	9.8	186	10.7	179	10.2	173	9.9
Total Scheme	1734	100.0	1736	100.0	1740	100.0	1750	100.0	1753	100.0	1744	100.0

## **Accreditation by Nation**

Number of museums in the Accreditation Scheme by location (September 2018 – September 2019)

	Sep-18		Nov-18		Feb-19		Apr-19		Jun-19		Sep-19	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
England	1318	75.7	1318	75.9	1322	76.0	1330	76.0	1331	75.9	1323	75.9
Northern Ireland	43	2.5	43	2.5	43	2.5	43	2.5	43	2.5	43	2.5
Scotland	251	14.5	253	14.6	253	14.5	255	14.6	257	14.7	257	14.7
Wales	102	5.9	102	5.9	102	5.9	102	5.8	102	5.8	101	5.8
Isle of Man	10	0.6	10	0.6	10	0.6	10	0.6	10	0.6	10	0.6
Channel Islands	10	0.6	10	0.6	10	0.6	10	0.6	10	0.6	10	0.6
<b>Total Scheme</b>	<b>1734</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1736</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1740</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1750</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1753</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1744</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Number of museums in the Accreditation Scheme by English region (September 2018 – September 2019)

	Sep-18		Nov-18		Feb-19		Apr-19		Jun-19		Sep-19	
	No.	%*	No.	%*	No.	%*	No.	%*	No.	%*	No.	%*
East of England	162	12.3	161	12.2	162	9.3	162	12.2	163	12.2	161	12.2
East Midlands	106	8.0	106	8.0	107	6.1	107	8.0	107	8.0	107	8.1
London	131	9.9	131	9.9	131	7.5	133	10.0	133	10.0	133	10.1
North East	64	4.9	64	4.9	63	3.6	63	4.7	63	4.7	63	4.8
North West	140	10.6	139	10.5	139	8.0	139	10.5	139	10.4	138	10.4
South East	237	18.0	240	18.2	238	13.7	239	18.0	240	18.0	240	18.1
South West	206	15.6	205	15.6	210	12.1	212	15.9	210	15.8	209	15.8
West Midlands	131	9.9	131	9.9	131	7.5	132	9.9	132	9.9	132	10.0
Yorkshire	141	10.7	141	10.7	141	8.1	143	10.8	144	10.8	140	10.6
<b>Total England</b>	<b>1318</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1318</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1322</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1330</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1331</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1323</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* Percentage of total Accredited museums in England

Number of museums in the Accreditation Scheme by status and location (September 2019)

	England		Northern Ireland		Scotland		Wales		Channel Islands		Isle of Man		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Full Accreditation</b>	1203	90.9	37	86.0	228	88.7	84	83.2	10	100.0	9	90.0	<b>1571</b>	<b>90.1</b>
<b>Provisional Accreditation</b>	120	9.1	6	14.0	29	11.3	17	16.8	0	0.0	1	10.0	<b>173</b>	<b>9.9</b>
<b>Total Scheme</b>	<b>1323</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1744</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## **Museum Governance**

Number of museums in the Accreditation Scheme by governance type and location (September 2019)

	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	Channel Islands	Isle of Man	Total	
Local Authority	343	20	94	34	3	0	494	28.3
Independent	723	13	118	44	7	0	905	51.9
National Trust	125	7	0	13	0	0	145	8.3
National Trust Scotland	0	0	10	0	0	0	10	0.6
University	57	0	16	3	0	0	76	4.4
National Museum	44	3	8	7	0	10	72	4.1
English Heritage	31	0	0	0	0	0	31	1.8
Historic Environment Scotland	0	0	11	0	0	0	11	0.6
Total Scheme	1323	43	257	101	10	10	1744	100.0%

## **Appendix 2: Return applications, reviews, and removals over the last year**

Once a museum has submitted an application or return, an initial assessment is undertaken by an assessor, based on the published Standard and the associated guidance documents. An assessor may also visit the museum as part of the assessment.

Completed assessments are submitted for a quality assurance review (moderation) and scheduled for panel consideration. The Accreditation panel (formed of members of the Accreditation Committee) then decides the award outcome and the award is confirmed (as appropriate).

Four award outcomes are possible for returning applicants:

- Full Accreditation
- Provisional Accreditation
- Remove
- Exclude due to deliberate non-compliance

New applicants can only receive Full Accreditation at a panel meeting or their application will not be taken forward.

More information about the Accreditation Committee is available on our website: <http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/accreditation-scheme/accreditation-how-apply>.

Panel meetings activity (September 2018 – September 2019)

	Sep-18		Nov-18		Feb-19		Apr-19		Jun-19		Sep-19		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Provisional reviews	19	18.6	19	20.8	10	18.2	13	22.8	17	56.7	23	44.2	101	25.3
Returns	72	70.6	76	71.7	39	70.9	34	59.6	8	27.7	20	38.4	249	62.4
New applications	9	8.8	5	4.7	5	9.1	10	17.5	4	13.3	0	0	33	8.3
Removals	2	2	3	2.8	1	1.8	0	0.0	1	3.3	9	17.3	16	4.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Return outcomes at each panel (September 2018 – September 2019)

	Sep-18		Nov-18		Feb-19		Apr-19		Jun-19		Sep-19		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Full	58	80.6	52	68.4	31	79.5	13	38.2	4	50.0	6	30.0	164	65.9
Provisional	14	19.4	24	31.6	8	20.5	21	61.8	4	50.0	14	70.0	85	34.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## **Removals**

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
- **withdrawal:** some museums choose to voluntarily withdraw and so are removed from the Scheme in line with their own instructions

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.

Reasons for removal at Accreditation panels (September 2018 – September 2019)

	Sep-18		Nov-18		Feb-19		Apr-19		Jun-19				Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Closure	0	-	0	-	1	100.0	0	-	0	-	5	55.6	6	40.0
Change of function	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	0.0
Serious disaster	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	0.0
Merger	1	100.0	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	2	22.2	3	20.0
Capacity	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	1	100.0	0	-	1	6.7
Withdrawal	0	-	3	100.0	0	-	0	-	0	-	2	22.2	5	33.3
Total	1	100.0	3	100.0	1	100.0	0	-	1	100.0	9	100.0	15	100.0