

Statistical report: Museum Accreditation

February 2020 meeting update



Headline figures:

- Between February 2019 to February 2020 there was an increase in the total number of museums in the scheme (1740 to 1742).
- During the same period, 61% of museums whose Accreditation returns were considered by a panel were awarded Full Accreditation.
- In February 2020, 1572 museums in the scheme held Full Accreditation (90.2%). This is a small increase (+3) compared to this point last year.

This report provides further detail on panel meetings at nation, governance and accreditation status between 2019 and 2020. Older reports can be accessed on from [Arts Council England](https://www.artscouncil.org.uk). 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 February 2019 and February 2020.

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:

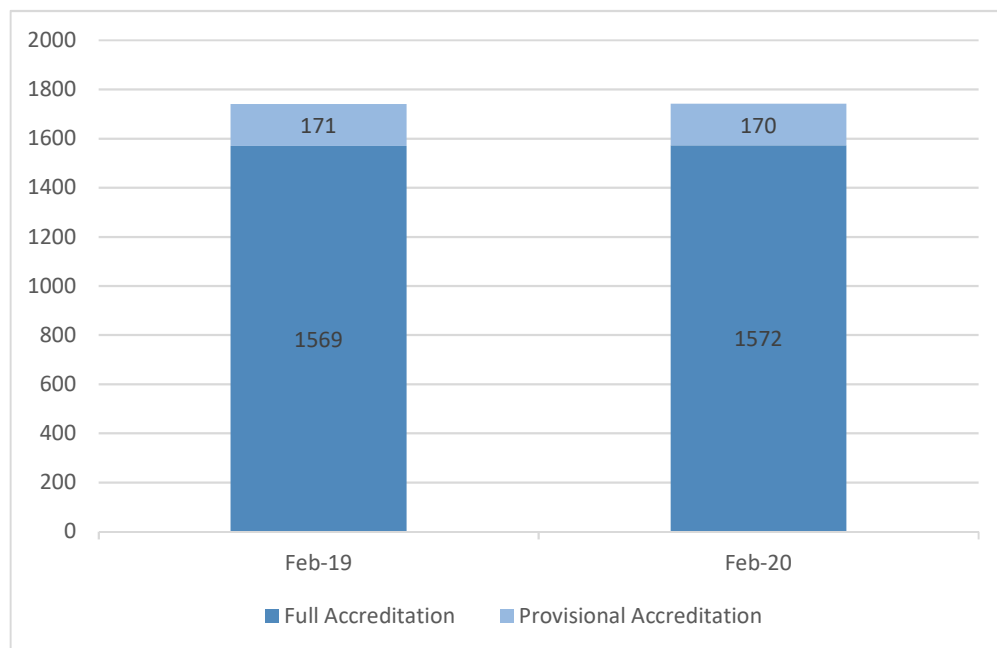
<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/accreditation-scheme/support-and-advice#section-3>



An overview of the Scheme

Museums in the Scheme

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



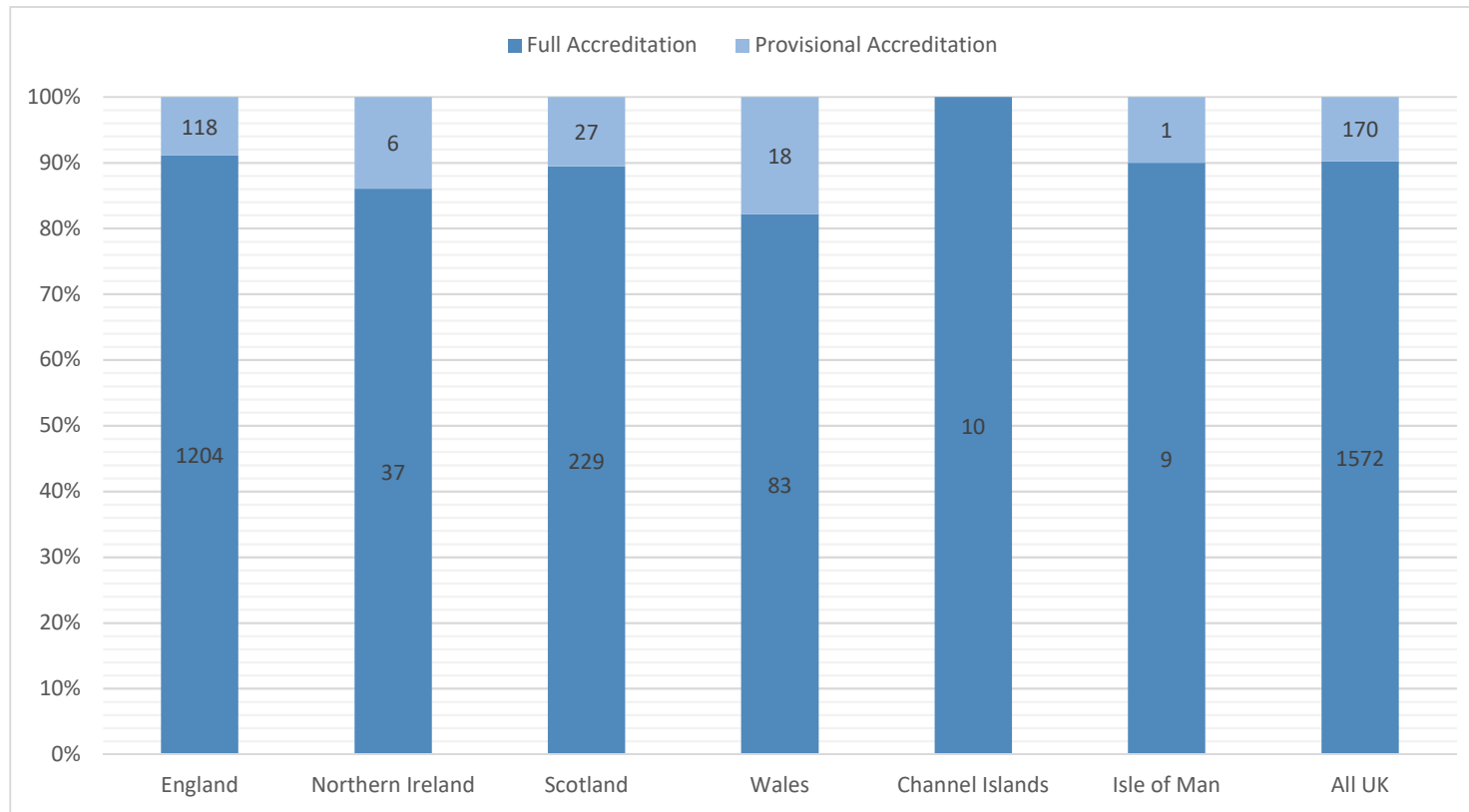
Between February 2019 and February 2020, there was an increase of three (+3) in the number of museums awarded Full Accreditation.

This means that 90.2% of the 1742 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 1740 to 1742.

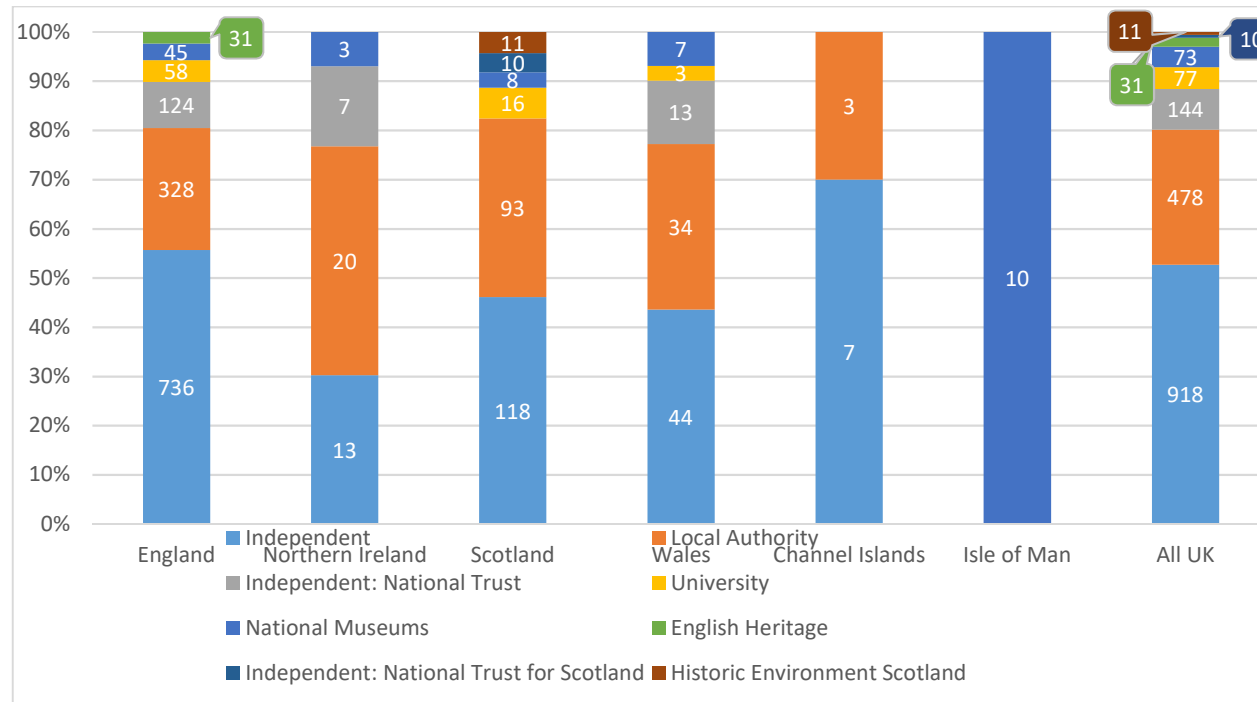
Accreditation by Nation

Figure 2: In February 2020 there were more museums with Full Accreditation than Provisional Accreditation in all UK nations



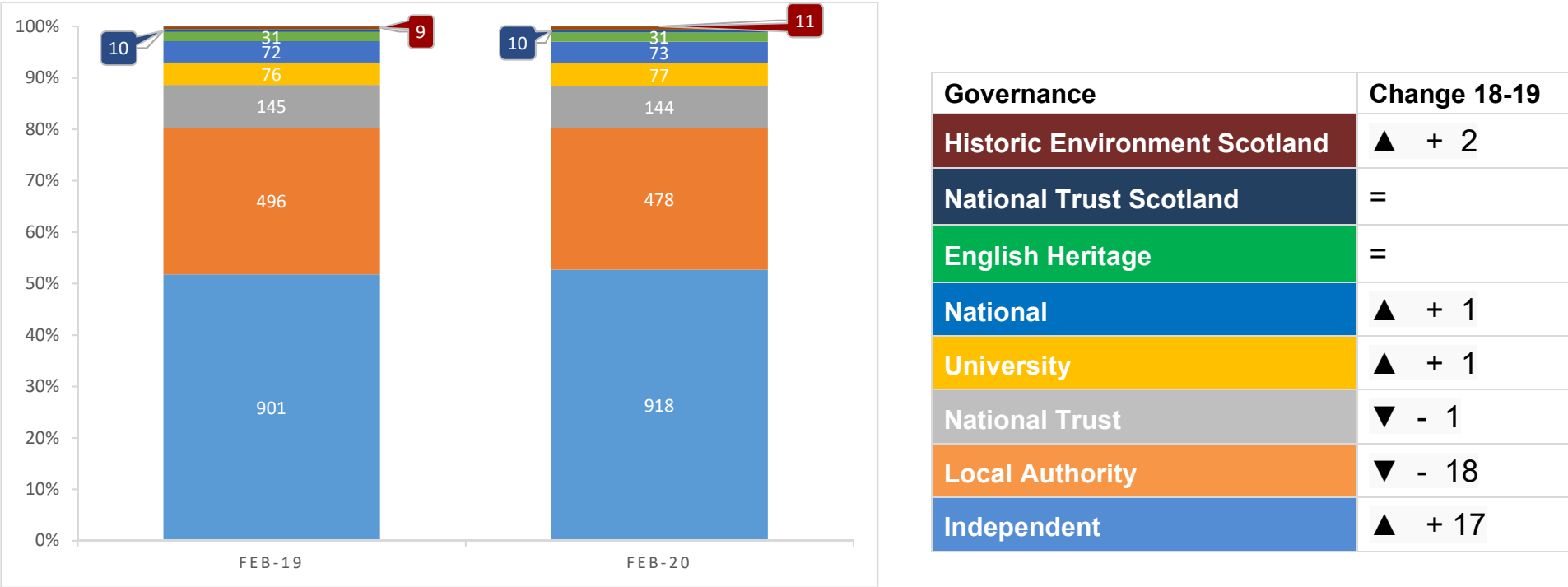
Museum Governance

Figure 3: The largest group of Accredited museums in most UK nations is independents (February 2020)



Independent museums make up the largest share of Accredited museums in most UK nations, and they make up more than half (52.7%) of the total UK museums in the Scheme.

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



The number of independent museums increased by 0.9%, from 901 to 918 between February 2019 and February 2020.

Return applications and reviews

Between February 2019 and February 2020 (inclusive), 324 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: Provisional reviews and return applications

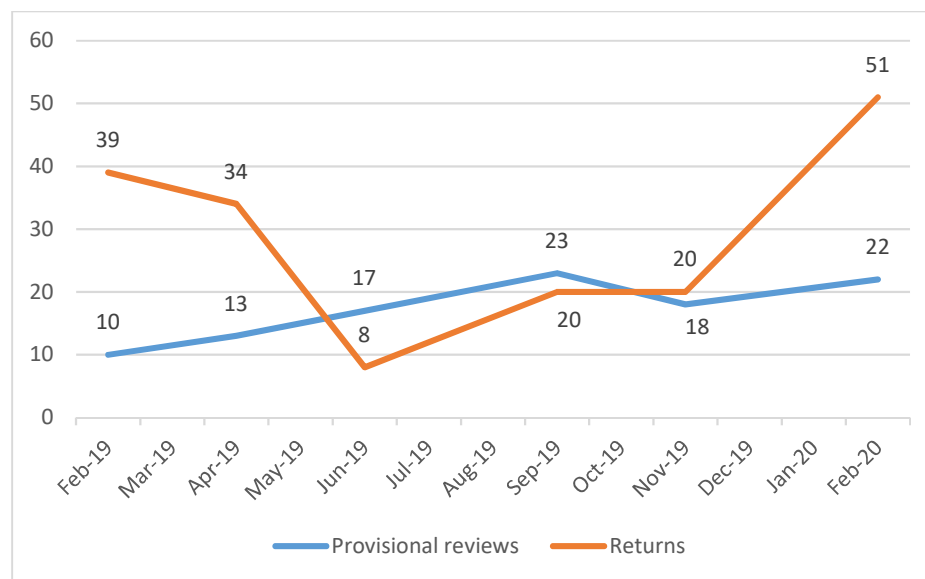
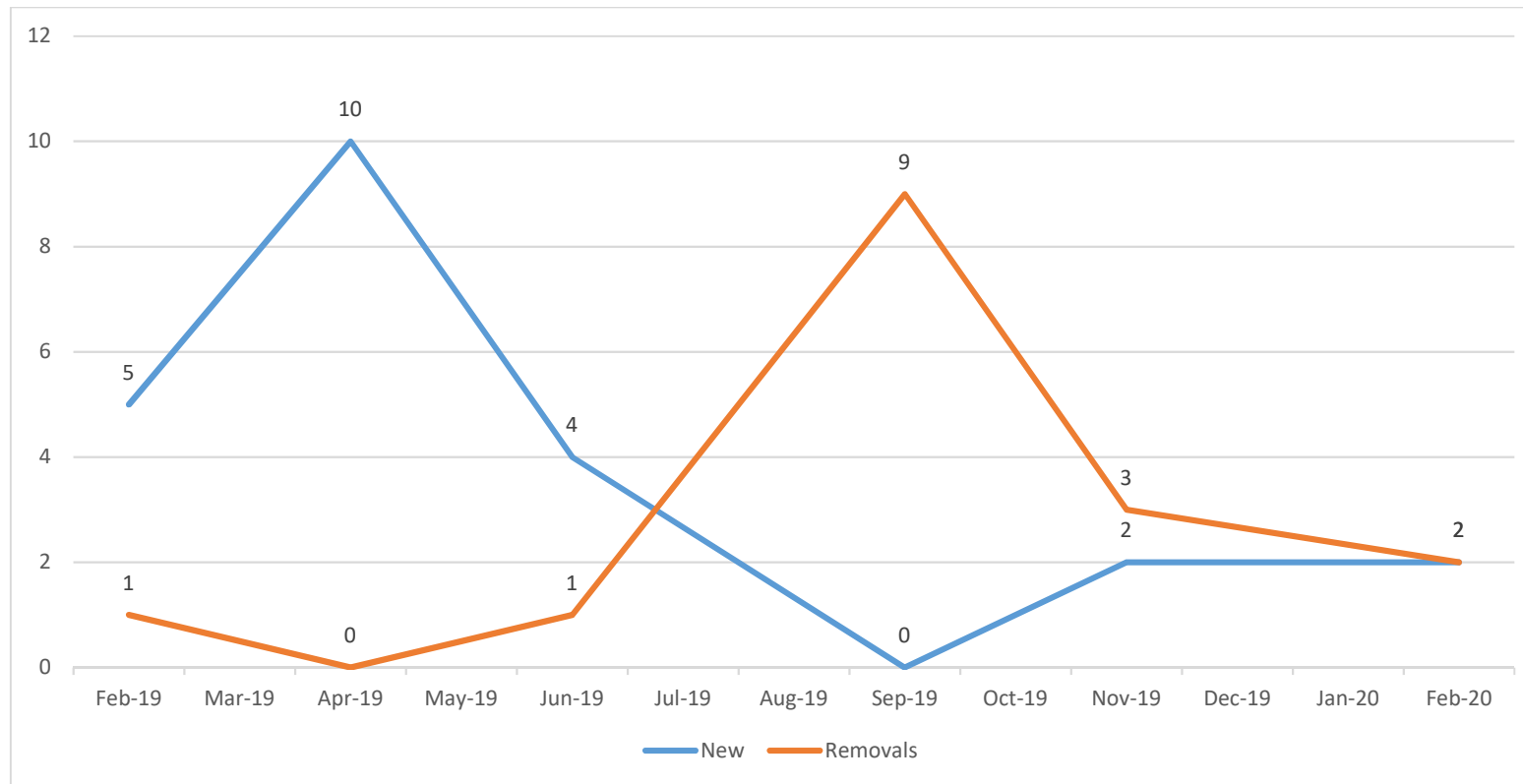


Figure 6: New applications and removals from the scheme



In February 2020 reasons for removal from the scheme were 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 (February 2019 and February 2020):

| | Feb-19 | | Apr-19 | | Jun-19 | | Sep-19 | | Nov-19 | | Feb-20 | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Full Accreditation | 1569 | 90.2% | 1564 | 89.4% | 1574 | 89.8% | 1571 | 90.1% | 1569 | 90.1% | 1572 | 90.2% |
| Provisional Accreditation | 171 | 9.8% | 186 | 10.6% | 179 | 10.2% | 173 | 9.9% | 173 | 9.9% | 170 | 9.8% |
| Total | 1740 | 100% | 1750 | 100% | 1753 | 100% | 1744 | 100% | 1742 | 100% | 1742 | 100% |

Accreditation by Nation

Number of museums in the Accreditation Scheme by location (February 2019 and February 2020):

| | Feb-19 | | Apr-19 | | Jun-19 | | Sep-19 | | Nov-19 | | Feb-20 | |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| England | 1322 | 76.0% | 1330 | 76.0% | 1331 | 75.9% | 1323 | 75.9% | 1321 | 75.8% | 1322 | 75.9% |
| Northern Ireland | 43 | 2.5% | 43 | 2.5% | 43 | 2.5% | 43 | 2.5% | 43 | 2.5% | 43 | 2.5% |
| Scotland | 253 | 14.5% | 255 | 14.6% | 257 | 14.7% | 257 | 14.7% | 257 | 14.8% | 256 | 14.7% |
| Wales | 102 | 5.9% | 102 | 5.8% | 102 | 5.8% | 101 | 5.8% | 101 | 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% |
| Total Scheme | 1740 | 100% | 1750 | 100% | 1753 | 100% | 1744 | 100% | 1742 | 100% | 1742 | 100% |

Number of museums in the Accreditation Scheme by English region (February 2019 and February 2020):

| | Feb-19 | | Apr-19 | | Jun-19 | | Sep-19 | | Nov-19 | | Feb-20 | |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | No. | %* | No. | %* | No. | %* | No. | %* | No. | %* | No. | %* |
| East of England | 162 | 12.3% | 162 | 12.2% | 163 | 12.2% | 161 | 12.2% | 160 | 12.1% | 160 | 12.1% |
| East Midlands | 107 | 8.1% | 107 | 8.0% | 107 | 8.0% | 107 | 8.1% | 107 | 8.1% | 107 | 8.1% |
| London | 131 | 9.9% | 133 | 10.0% | 133 | 10.0% | 133 | 10.1% | 133 | 10.1% | 133 | 10.1% |
| North East | 63 | 4.8% | 63 | 4.7% | 63 | 4.7% | 63 | 4.8% | 63 | 4.8% | 63 | 4.8% |
| North West | 139 | 10.5% | 139 | 10.5% | 139 | 10.4% | 138 | 10.4% | 138 | 10.4% | 138 | 10.4% |
| South East | 238 | 18.0% | 239 | 18.0% | 240 | 18.0% | 240 | 18.1% | 240 | 18.2% | 242 | 18.3% |
| South West | 210 | 15.9% | 212 | 15.9% | 210 | 15.8% | 209 | 15.8% | 208 | 15.7% | 208 | 15.7% |
| West Midlands | 131 | 9.9% | 132 | 9.9% | 132 | 9.9% | 132 | 10.0% | 132 | 10.0% | 131 | 9.9% |
| Yorkshire | 141 | 10.7% | 143 | 10.8% | 144 | 10.8% | 140 | 10.6% | 140 | 10.6% | 140 | 10.6% |
| Total England | 1322 | 100% | 1330 | 100% | 1331 | 100% | 1323 | 100% | 1321 | 100% | 1322 | 100% |

* Percentage of total Accredited museums in England

Number of museums in the Accreditation Scheme by status and location (February 2020):

| | England | | Northern Ireland | | Scotland | | Wales | | Channel Islands | | Isle of Man | | Total | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Full Accreditation | 1204 | 91.1% | 37 | 86.0% | 229 | 89.5% | 83 | 82.2% | 10 | 100% | 9 | 90.0% | 1572 | 90.2% |
| Provisional Accreditation | 118 | 8.9% | 6 | 14.0% | 27 | 10.5% | 18 | 17.8% | 0 | 0% | 1 | 10.0% | 170 | 9.8% |
| Total Scheme | 1322 | 100% | 43 | 100% | 256 | 100% | 101 | 100% | 10 | 100% | 10 | 100% | 1742 | 100% |

Museum Governance

Number of museums in the Accreditation Scheme by governance type and location (February 2020)

| | England | Northern Ireland | Scotland | Wales | Channel Islands | Isle of Man | Total | |
|-------------------------------|---------|------------------|----------|-------|-----------------|-------------|-------|-------|
| Local Authority | 328 | 20 | 93 | 34 | 3 | 0 | 478 | 27.4% |
| Independent | 736 | 13 | 118 | 44 | 7 | 0 | 918 | 52.7% |
| National Trust | 124 | 7 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 144 | 8.3% |
| National Trust Scotland | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0.6% |
| University | 58 | 0 | 16 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 77 | 4.4% |
| National Museum | 45 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 0 | 10 | 73 | 4.2% |
| 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 | 1322 | 43 | 256 | 101 | 10 | 10 | 1742 | 100% |

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 (February 2019 - February 2020):

| | Feb-19 | | Apr-19 | | Jun-19 | | Sep-19 | | Nov-19 | | Feb-20 | | Total | |
|---------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Provisional reviews | 10 | 18% | 13 | 23% | 17 | 57% | 23 | 44% | 23 | 42% | 21 | 28% | 107 | 33% |
| Returns | 39 | 71% | 34 | 60% | 8 | 27% | 20 | 38% | 27 | 49% | 50 | 67% | 178 | 55% |
| New applications | 5 | 9% | 10 | 18% | 4 | 13% | 0 | 0% | 2 | 4% | 2 | 3% | 23 | 7% |
| Removals | 1 | 2% | 0 | 0% | 1 | 3% | 9 | 17% | 3 | 5% | 2 | 3% | 16 | 5% |
| Total | 55 | 100% | 57 | 100% | 30 | 100% | 52 | 100% | 55 | 100% | 75 | 100% | 324 | 100% |

Return outcomes at each panel (February 2019 - February 2020):

| | Feb-19 | | Apr-19 | | Jun-19 | | Sep-19 | | Nov-19 | | Feb-20 | | Total | |
|--------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Full | 31 | 79% | 13 | 38% | 4 | 50% | 6 | 30% | 27 | 52% | 43 | 86% | 124 | 61% |
| Provisional | 8 | 21% | 21 | 62% | 4 | 50% | 14 | 70% | 25 | 48% | 7 | 14% | 79 | 39% |
| Total | 39 | 100% | 34 | 100% | 8 | 100% | 20 | 100% | 52 | 100% | 50 | 100% | 203 | 100% |

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 (February 2019 - February 2020)

| | Feb-19 | | Apr-19 | | Jun-19 | | Sep-19 | | Nov-19 | | Feb-20 | | Total | |
|--------------------|----------|-------------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|----------|---------------|----------|---------------|----------|-------------|-----------|---------------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Closure | 1 | 100% | 0 | - | 0 | - | 5 | 55.6% | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | - | 6 | 37.5% |
| Change of function | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | - | 0 | 0.0% |
| Serious disaster | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | - | 0 | 0.0% |
| Merger | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | 2 | 22.2% | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | - | 2 | 12.5% |
| Capacity | 0 | - | 0 | - | 1 | 100% | 0 | - | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | - | 1 | 6.3% |
| Withdrawal | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | 2 | 22.2% | 3 | 100.0% | 2 | 100% | 7 | 43.8% |
| Total | 1 | 100% | 0 | - | 1 | 100% | 9 | 100.0% | 3 | 100.0% | 2 | 100% | 16 | 100.0% |