

# What we think about the Government Indemnity Scheme



**Easy read booklet**

# Who we are and what this booklet is about



We are **LFCP**. We are an organisation that tells museums, art galleries and libraries how to borrow and look after artwork.



**Arts Council England** asked us to write what we think about the **Government Indemnity Scheme**.



**Arts Council England** help artists and arts organisations be creative and make art and culture.

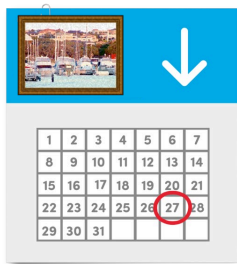


This booklet tells you about the **Government Indemnity Scheme**.

# The Government Indemnity Scheme



The **Government Indemnity Scheme** helps organisations **loan** artwork to museums, art galleries or libraries.



**Loan** means to give something to someone for a certain amount of time.



**Indemnity** is when an organisation agrees to pay if someone loses or breaks something, like artwork.



The **Government Indemnity Scheme** helps organisations to keep their artwork safe.



Organisations will get money if a museum, art gallery or library loses or breaks any artwork they borrow.

# Rules museums, art galleries and libraries follow



Museums, art galleries and libraries have to follow rules if they want to borrow artwork.



These rules are part of the **Government Indemnity Scheme.**



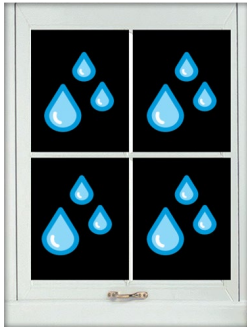
Some of these rules are about where museums, art galleries or libraries will keep the artwork.



They have to think about the rooms and buildings where they will keep the artwork.



Museums, art galleries and libraries need to make sure the artwork is in a room like the one it was borrowed from.



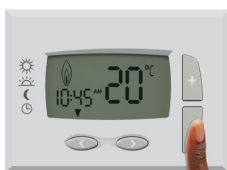
Museums, art galleries and libraries outside of England have to think about how wet or dry a room is.



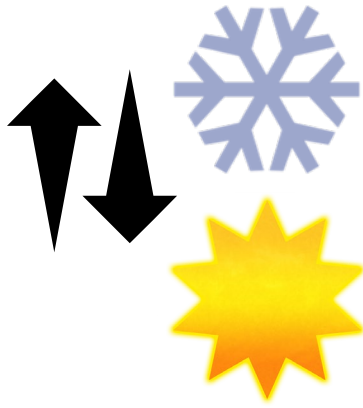
You can find out how wet a room is by how much water is in the air. There can only be so much water in the air.



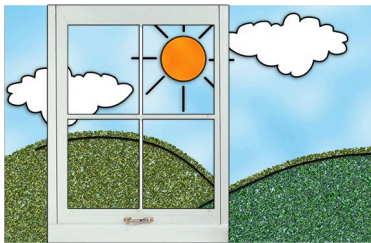
These museums, art galleries and libraries also have to think about how hot or cold a room is.



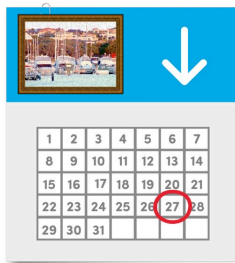
The room where they keep the artwork must be warmer than 16 degrees and colder than 24 degrees.



This number cannot go up or down by more than 4 degrees in 1 day.



There also has to be a certain amount of light in the room where they keep the artwork.



Museums, art galleries and libraries can borrow artwork for a short or long amount of time.



If they borrow artwork for a short amount of time, they have to check how hot, cold, wet or dry the room is, exactly 1 year before they borrow it.



If they borrow artwork for a long amount of time, they need a report that says how hot, cold, wet or dry a room has been for a whole year.



# Why we have written this booklet



We want to make sure it is fair for museums, art galleries and libraries to follow these rules.



**Climate change** has made it hard for museums, art galleries and libraries to control how hot, cold, wet or dry a room is.



**Climate change** means how the earth's weather is changing because people use fuels like oil and gas.



We want to find out if we need to make changes to these rules, so more organisations can borrow artwork.

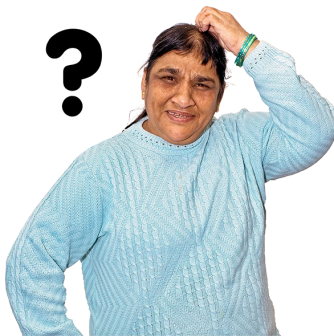
# What museums, art galleries and libraries think of the rules



Lots of museums, art galleries and libraries think of the rules as advice on how to look after artwork.



They do not think of the rules as what they have to do to look after artwork.

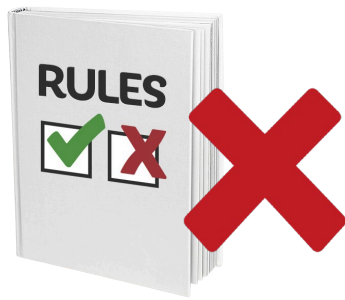


Museums, art galleries and libraries think the rules in the scheme are confusing and hard to follow.



The rules are easier for museums, art galleries and libraries in England to follow.





Museums, art galleries and libraries do not have to follow some of the rules if they have a good reason not to.



Many museums, art galleries and libraries do not know this.



Many museums, art galleries and libraries find it hard to control how hot, cold, wet or dry a room is.



They know organisations that loan their artwork do not follow rules about how hot, cold, wet or dry a room should be.



They want Arts Council England to give more advice about how to look after artwork.

# How the rules help



No one has asked for money because their artwork has been damaged by how hot, cold, wet or dry a room is.



This might mean the rules help keep artwork safe.



It could also mean that how hot, cold, wet or dry a room is does not affect artwork.



When artwork comes to a museum, art gallery or library, it can come from anywhere in the world.



The artwork might have already spent years in a very hot and light room.



Most artwork can cope with a room or building that is hot, cold, wet, dry, light or dark.



Most artwork is damaged when people touch or move it.



Different things will damage different types of artwork. Fire and bugs can also damage artwork.



For example, someone might steal a painting, but a vase will most likely break if someone touches it.

# How museums, art galleries and libraries follow the rules



Many museums, art galleries and libraries use **air conditioning** and **ventilation** to control how hot, cold, wet or dry a room is.



**Air conditioning** is a fan that warms up or cools down the air in the room.



**Ventilation** is a fan that blows in fresh air from outside and blows out the air from inside the room.



Air conditioning and ventilation need **electricity** to work. **Electricity** often comes from fuels like oil and gas.

# Problems with the rules



We know fuels like oil and gas are not good for the earth. They make climate change happen a lot faster.



We do not know if artwork is damaged by how hot, cold, wet or dry a room is.



It also costs a lot more money to use electricity than it did a few years ago.



There might be better ways for museums, art galleries and libraries to look after artwork.



# Climate change



Many museums, art galleries and libraries do not know how climate change will affect them in the future.



We think museums, art galleries and libraries will not be able to control how hot, cold, wet or dry a room is.



Air conditioning and ventilation will cost too much money to use and only make climate change worse.



More museums, art galleries and libraries will have to close if it is too hot or cold to stay open.





Less people will visit museums, art galleries and libraries if it is too hot or cold outside.



New bugs will be able to live in the UK if it gets a lot warmer. These bugs might damage buildings.



More storms and heavy rain will damage museums, art galleries and libraries.



Museums, art galleries and libraries will have more problems with **mould**.



**Mould** is a type of bacteria that grows on buildings that are too wet.

# Other problems we want to think about



Since Covid-19, less people visit museums, art galleries and libraries.



Many museums, art galleries and libraries are finding it hard to make enough money to stay open.



Many people have lost their jobs at museums, art galleries and libraries or are being paid a lot less money.

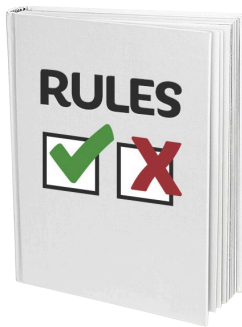


We do not want museums, art galleries and libraries to spend more money on air conditioning and ventilation.

# Changes to the rules



We think there could be changes to how museums, art galleries and libraries borrow and look after artwork.



The rules ask museums, art galleries and libraries to follow the exact same rules for all types of artwork.



We think museums, art galleries and libraries should look after different types of artwork in different ways.



They should think about where an artwork has come from and how old it is.

# Different ways to look after artwork



Some museums, art galleries and libraries already have different ways to look after artwork they borrow.



Lots of these ways are good for the earth and help slow down climate change.



Some do not use air conditioning or ventilation at all.



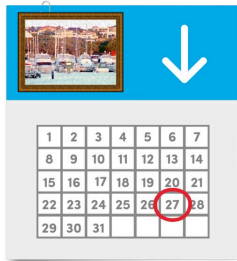
Some only use air conditioning or ventilation at certain times of the day, week or year.



Some wrap artwork up or put it in a box or frame so it does not get too hot, cold, wet or dry.



Some make sure the room where they keep the artwork is no warmer than 24 degrees, but they do not worry if it gets colder than 16 degrees.



Some borrow artwork for a longer amount of time, so it is not being moved around lots.



Some organisations will only loan their artwork to local museums, art galleries and libraries.



Some check their building to make sure it does not get too hot, cold, wet or dry.

# What needs to happen next



Museums, art galleries and libraries should be able to keep artwork in a room that is as hot, cold, dry, or wet as the room it came from.



They should not have to follow rules about exactly how hot, cold, dry or wet a room should be.



Arts Council England should share information and advice about how to borrow and look after artwork.



The **Government Indemnity Scheme** and the rules should be easy to understand and follow.



Thank you to A2i for the words  
**www.a2i.co.uk** (reference 37966a)

The full version of this document is called  
“Report on the review of the Government  
Indemnity Scheme Environmental guidelines ”