

Statistical report: Accreditation

September 2016 meeting update

06 October 2016

Key trends between September 2015 and September 2016:

- The total number of museums in the Scheme has decreased between September 2015 and September 2016, from 1726 to 1720.
- The number of participating museums holding full Accreditation has decreased from 1586 museums (91.9% of participants) in September 2015 to 1567 museums (91.1% of participants) in September 2016.
- 68.6% of museums whose Accreditation returns were considered by a panel between September 2015 and September 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 September 2015 and the end of September 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/supporting-museums/accreditation-scheme-0>.

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.

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 September 2015 and September 2016, from 1726 to 1720.

Between September 2015 and September 2016 the number of fully Accredited museums decreased from 1586 to 1567 and now account for 91.1% of all museums within the Scheme.

The number of museums holding provisional status has increased, from 140 museums (8.1% of participants) in September 2015 to 153 museums (8.9% of participants) in September 2016.

25 new applicants to the Scheme have achieved full Accreditation since September 2015.

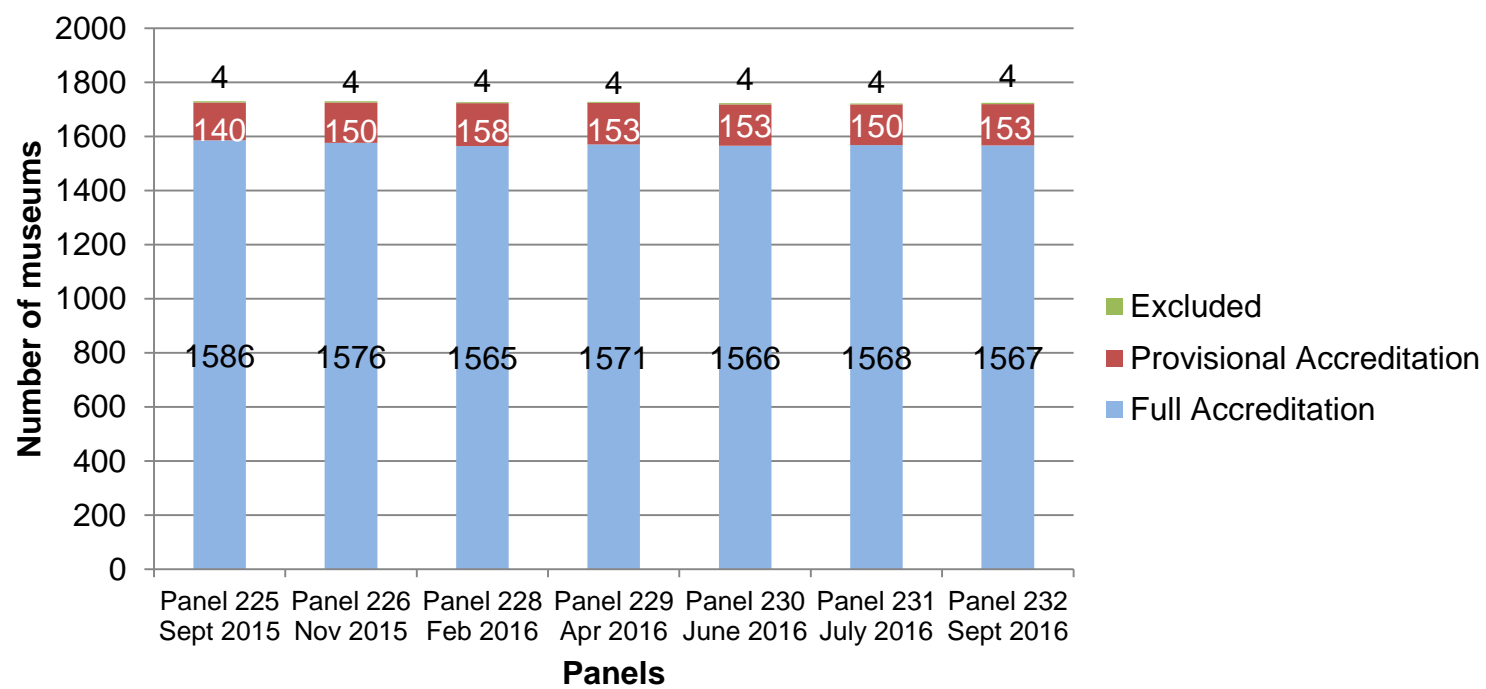
The Registration Scheme closed in June 2010.

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

	Sep 2015		Nov 2015		Feb 2016		Apr 2016		June 2016		July 2016		Sep 2016	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Full Accreditation	1586*	91.9	1576*	91.3*	1565*	90.8*	1571*	91.1*	1566	91.1	1568	91.3	1567	91.1
Provisional Accreditation	140*	8.1	150*	8.7*	158*	9.2*	153*	8.9*	153	8.9	150	8.7	153	8.9
Total Scheme	1726	100.0	1726	100.0	1723	100.0	1724	100.0	1719	100.0	1718	100.0	1720	100.0
Excluded	4		4		4		4		4		4		4	

*Change due to correction in the data

**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 September 2016, England has the largest number of museums participating in the Accreditation Scheme (1308, or 76.0% of participating museums), which is expected given its relative size.

There are 250 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%).

10.2% of Accredited museums in England hold the provisional award (134 museums).

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

5.6% of Accredited museums in Scotland hold the provisional award (14 museums).

4.1% of Accredited museums in Wales hold the provisional award (four 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 (15.0%), the East of England (12.4%), Yorkshire (10.9%), the North West (10.7%), the West Midlands (10.4%), London (10.3%), the East Midlands (7.7%), and the North East (4.8%).

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

	Sept 2015		Nov 2015		Feb 2016		Apr 2016		June 2016		July 2016		Sept 2016	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
England	1311	76.0	1312	76.0	1312	76.1	1311	76.0	1306	76.0	1305	76.0	1308	76.0
Northern Ireland	43	2.5	43	2.5	43	2.5	43	2.5	43	2.5	43	2.5	43	2.5
Scotland	254	14.7	252	14.6	249	14.5	249	14.4	250	14.5	250	14.6	250	14.5
Wales	97	5.6	98	5.7	98	5.7	100	5.8	99	5.8	99	5.8	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	1726	100.0	1726	100.0	1723	100.0	1724	99.9*	1719	100.0	1718	100.1*	1720	99.9*

* 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

	Sept 2015		Nov 2015		Feb 2016		Apr 2016		June 2016		July 2016		Sept 2016	
	No.	%**	No.	%**	No.	%**	No.	%**	No.	%**	No.	%**	No.	%**
East of England	162	12.4	162	12.3	163	12.4	163	12.4	161	12.3	162	12.4	162	12.4
East Midlands	101	7.7	101	7.7	100	7.6	100	7.6	99	7.6	100	7.7	101	7.7
London	133	10.1	133	10.1	133	10.1	132	10.1	134	10.3	133	10.2	135	10.3
North East	65	5.0	65	5.0	64	4.9	63	4.8	63	4.8	63	4.8	63	4.8
North West	142	10.8	142	10.8	141	10.7	141	10.8	140	10.7	140	10.7	140	10.7
South East	233	17.8	233	17.8	234	17.8	235	17.9	235	18.0	234	17.9	233	17.8
South West	195	14.9	196	14.9	196	14.9	197	15.0	195	14.9	195	14.9	196	15.0
West Midlands	137	10.5	138	10.5	139	10.6	138	10.5	137	10.5	136	10.4	136	10.4
Yorkshire	143	10.9	142	10.8	142	10.8	142	10.8	142	10.9	142	10.9	142	10.9
Total England	1311	100.0	1312	100.0	1312	100.0	1311	99.9*	1306	100.0	1305	99.9*	1308	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 (September 2016)

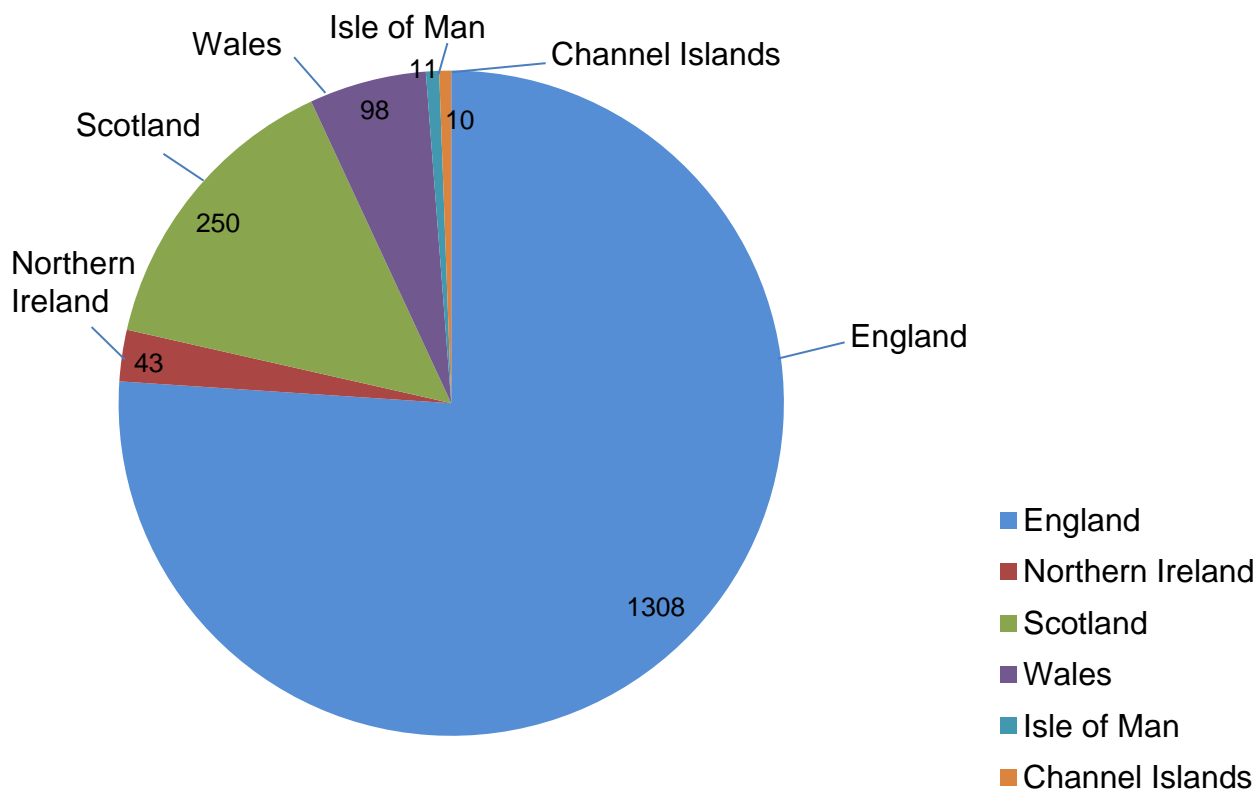


Figure 3 – Number of museums and galleries in the Accreditation Scheme in England by English region (September 2016)

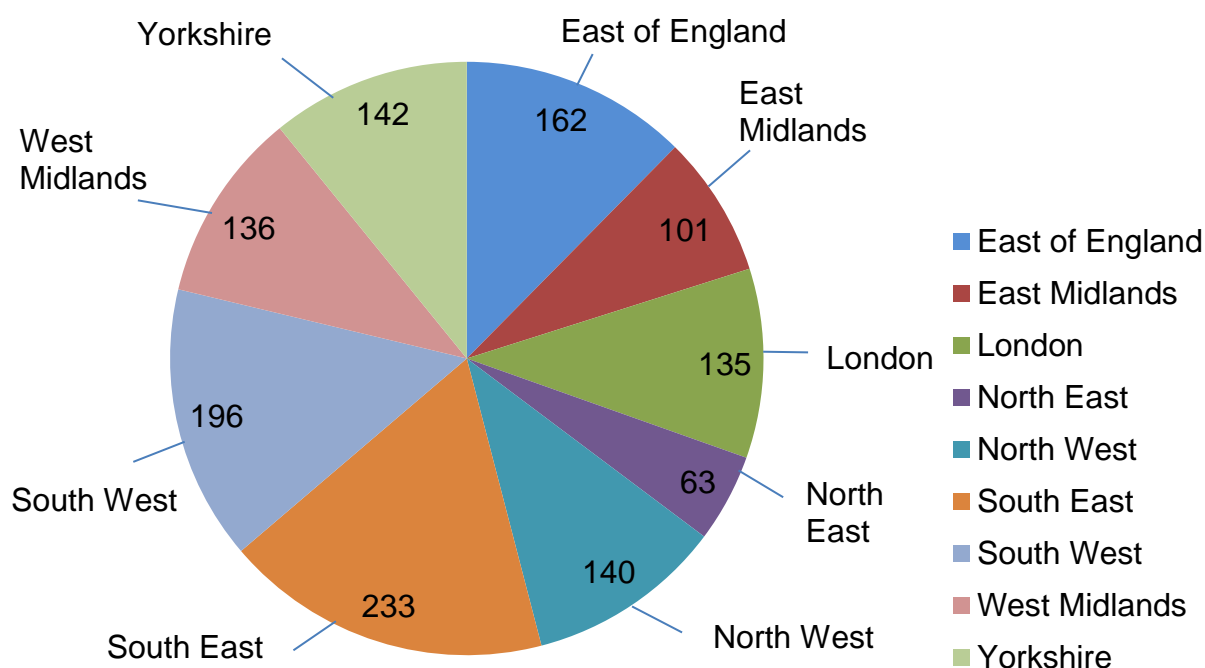
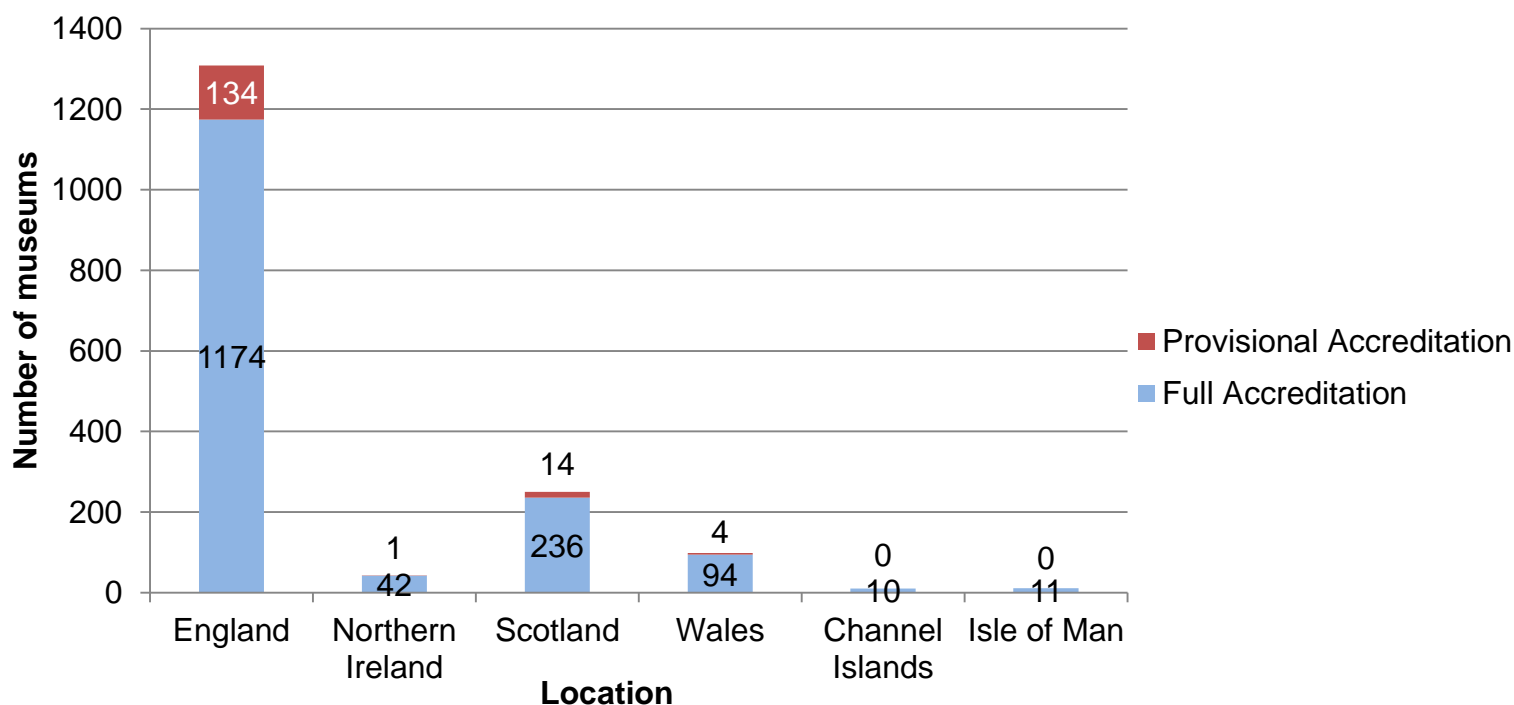


Table 2.4: Number of museums and galleries in the Accreditation Scheme by status and location (September 2016)

	England		Northern Ireland		Scotland		Wales		Channel Islands		Isle of Man		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Full Accreditation	1174	89.8	42	97.7	236	94.4	94	95.9	10	100.0	11	100.0	1567	91.1
Provisional Accreditation	134	10.2	1	2.3	14	5.6	4	4.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	153	8.9
Total Scheme	1308	100.0	43	100.0	250	100.0	98	100.0	10	100.0	11	100.0	1720	100.0

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



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

As of September 2016 there are 942 independent museums within the Accreditation Scheme in the UK, of which 145 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 (54.8% of participating museums).

The second most frequent type of museum is Local Authority owned with 524 museums – approximately a third (30.5%) 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 September 2015 and September 2016 the number of Accredited Local Authority owned museums decreased by 1.1% from 530 Local Authority owned museums to 524 Local Authority owned museums. The number of Accredited independent museums (including National Trust and National Trust Scotland) decreased by 0.1% from 943 independent museums to 942 independent museums. The number of Accredited museums considered to be national museums remained the same at 73 national museums. The number of Accredited military museums increased by 1.6% from 63 military museums to 64 military museums. The number of Accredited university museums remained the same at 80 museums. The number of Accredited public heritage body-owned remained the same at 37 museums.

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

	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	Channel Islands	Isle of Man	Total	
Local Authority	370	21	94	36	3	0	524	30.5%
Independent	627	9	107	38	7	0	788	45.8%
Independent: National Trust	126	7	0	12	0	0	145	8.4%
Independent: National Trust Scotland	0	0	9	0	0	0	9	0.5%
Military	52	3	7	2	0	0	64	3.7%
University	55	0	22	3	0	0	80	4.7%
National Museum	44	3	8	7	0	11	73	4.2%
English Heritage	34	0	0	0	0	0	34	2.0%
Historic Environment Scotland	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	0.2%
Total Scheme	1308	43	250	98	10	11	1720	100.0%

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

	Sept 2015		Nov 2015		Feb 2016		Apr 2016		June 2016		July 2016		Sept 2016	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Local Authority	530	30.7	529	30.6	527	30.6	526	30.5	524	30.5	522	30.4	524	30.5
Independent	790	45.8	791	45.8	790	45.9	791	45.9	786	45.7	787	45.8	788	45.8
Independent: National Trust	144	8.3	144	8.3	144	8.4	145	8.4	145	8.4	145	8.4	145	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	63	3.7	63	3.7	63	3.7	63	3.7	64	3.7	64	3.7	64	3.7
University	80	4.6	80	4.6	80	4.6	80	4.6	81	4.7	81	4.7	80	4.7
National Museum	73	4.2	73	4.2	73	4.2	73	4.2	73	4.2	73	4.2	73	4.2
English Heritage	34	2.0	34	2.0	34	2.0	34	2.0	34	2.0	34	2.0	34	2.0
Historic Environment Scotland	3	0.2	3	0.2	3	0.2	3	0.2	3	0.2	3	0.2	3	0.2
Total Scheme	1726	100.0	1726	100.0	1723	100.1*	1724	100.0	1719	99.9*	1718	99.9*	1720	100.0

* 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 (September 2016)

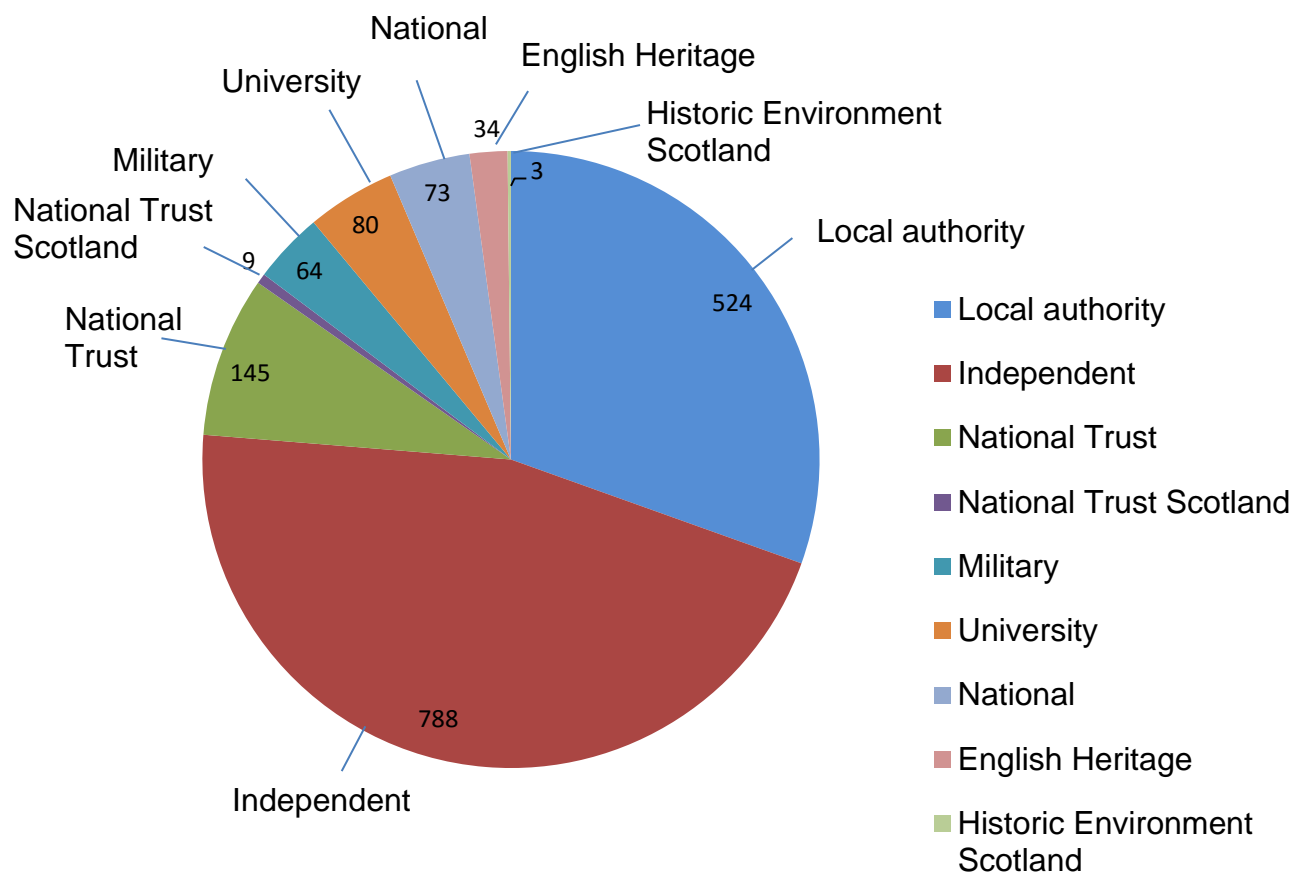


Figure 6 – Number of Museums in the Accreditation Scheme by type across England (September 2016)

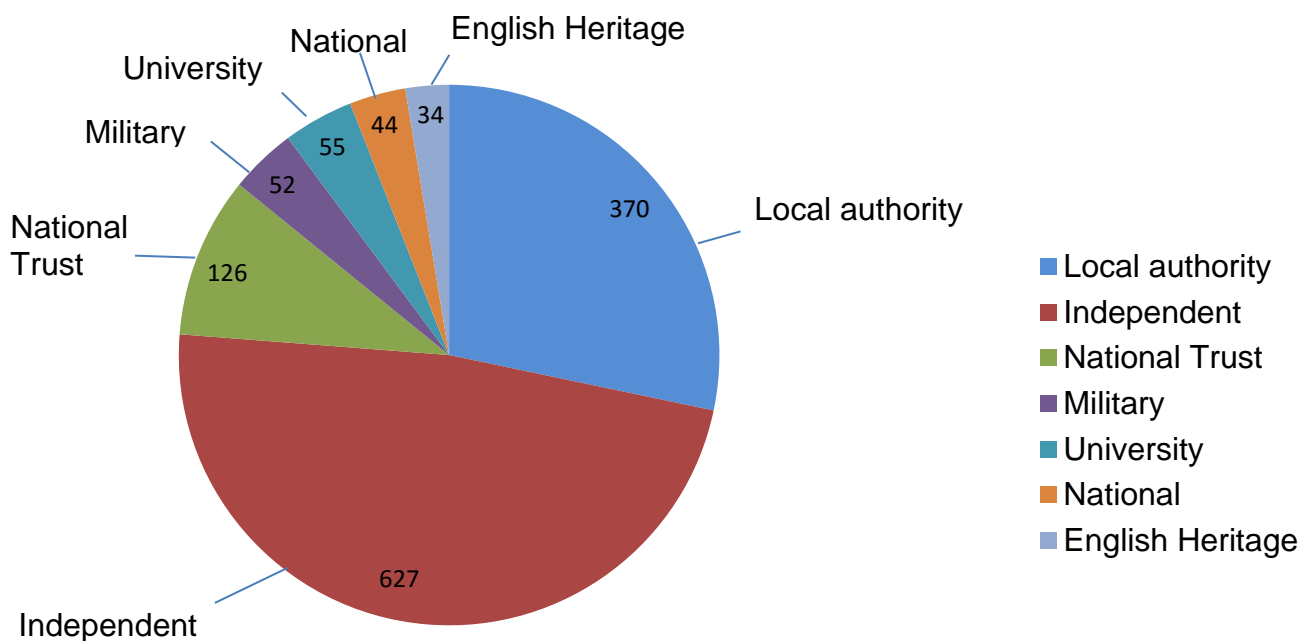


Figure 7 – Number of Museums in the Accreditation Scheme by type across Northern Ireland (September 2016)

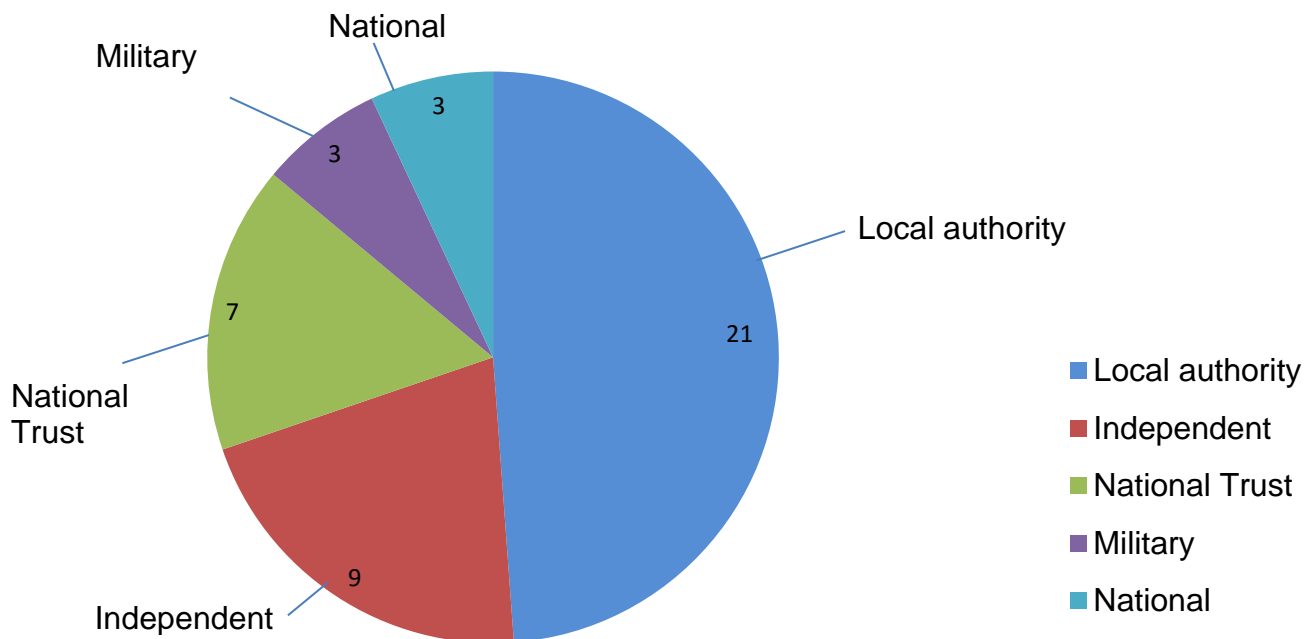


Figure 8 – Number of Museums in the Accreditation Scheme by type across Scotland (September 2016)

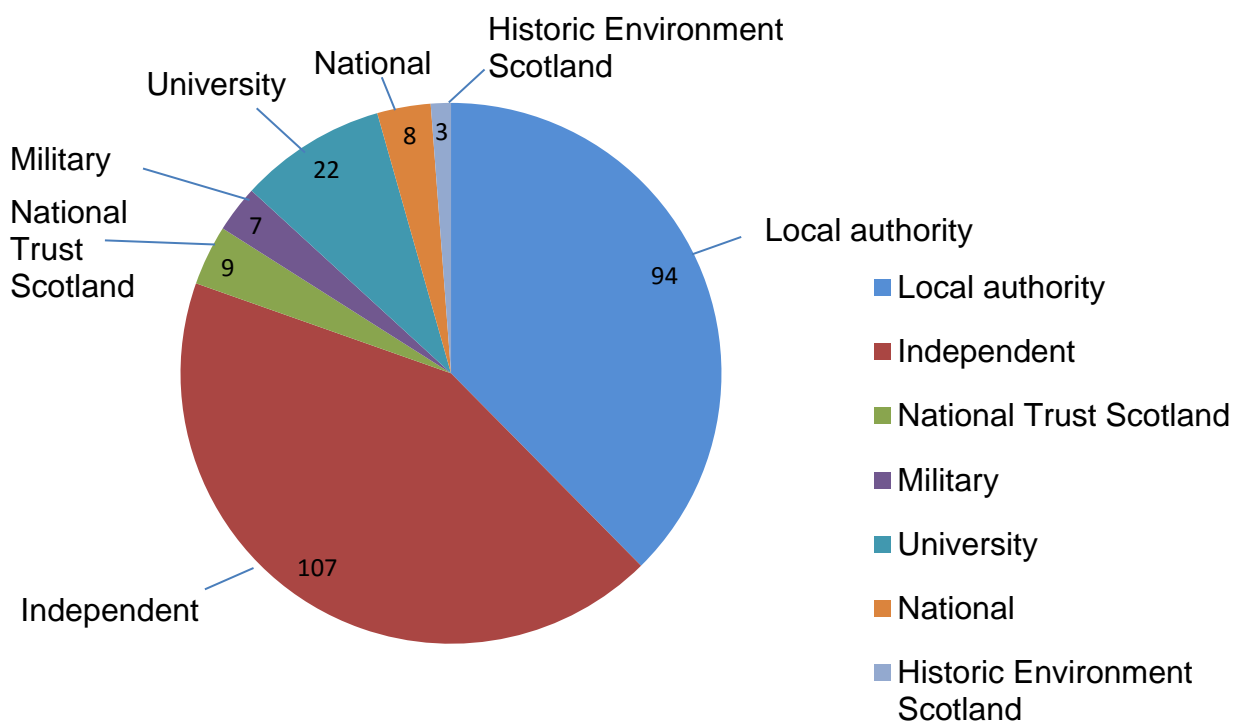


Figure 9 – Number of Museums in the Accreditation Scheme by type across Wales (September 2016)

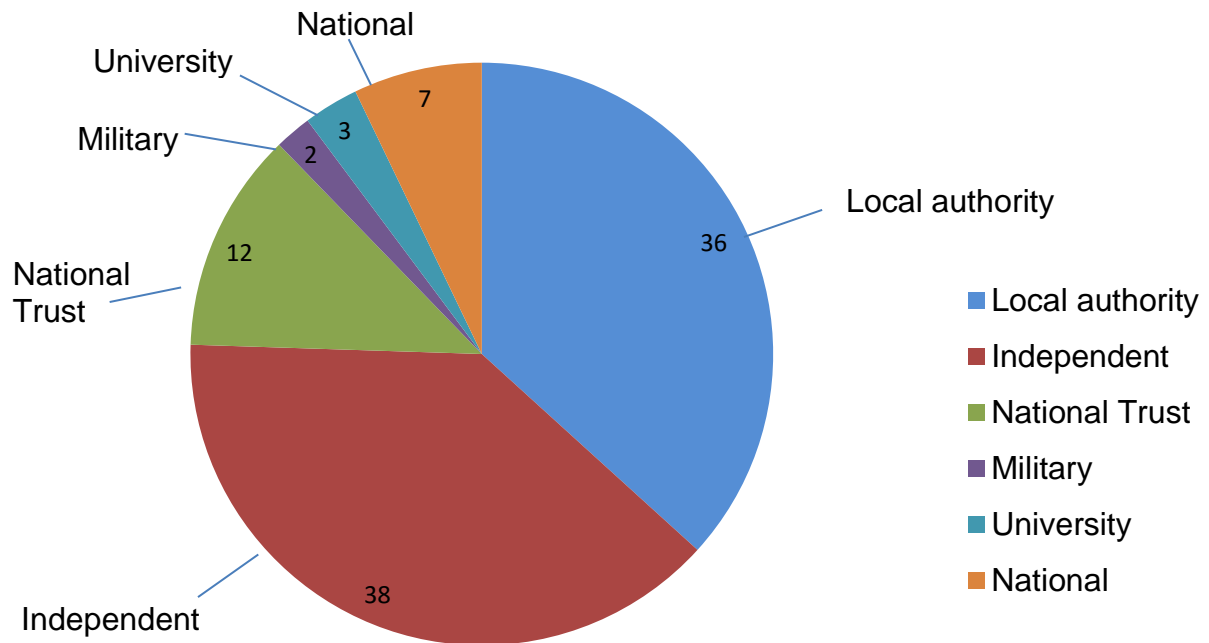
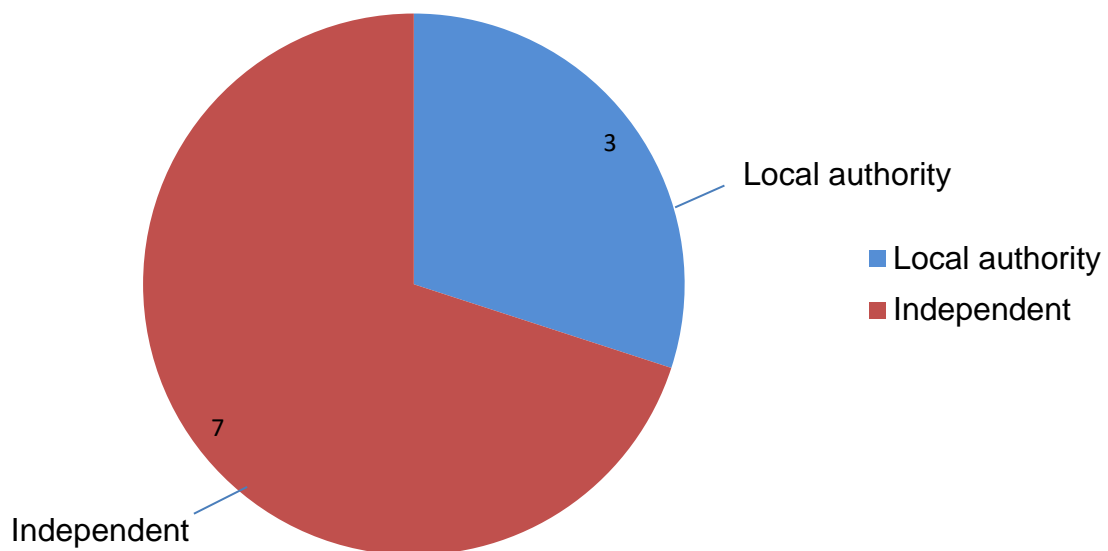


Figure 10 – Number of Museums in the Accreditation Scheme by type across the Channel Islands (September 2016)



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 231 eligibility questionnaires have been received. 23 have been assessed as ineligible or withdrawn from working towards Accreditation, and 26 eligibility questionnaires are currently under assessment. 105 museums have submitted Accreditation applications, and 77 of those museums have since achieved full Accreditation. There are 102 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	81	69
Northern Ireland	1	6
Scotland	7	13
Wales	13	17
Isle of Man	0	0
Channel Islands	0	0
Total Scheme	102	105

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	12	10
London	13	9
North East	1	3
North West	3	4
South East	25	16
South West	15	13
West Midlands	5	6
Yorkshire	3	2
Total England	81	69

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

Between September 2015 and September 2016, 447 cases were presented to panels of the Accreditation Committee.

65.5% of cases concerned museums that have submitted a return application to have their Accreditation status renewed.

20.1% of cases related to museums that had previously achieved provisional Accreditation, assessing whether they had met the provisional conditions of their award.

6.0% 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.

8.3% 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, 68.6% resulted in the outcome of full Accreditation for the returning museum, and 31.4% resulted in the outcome of provisional Accreditation.

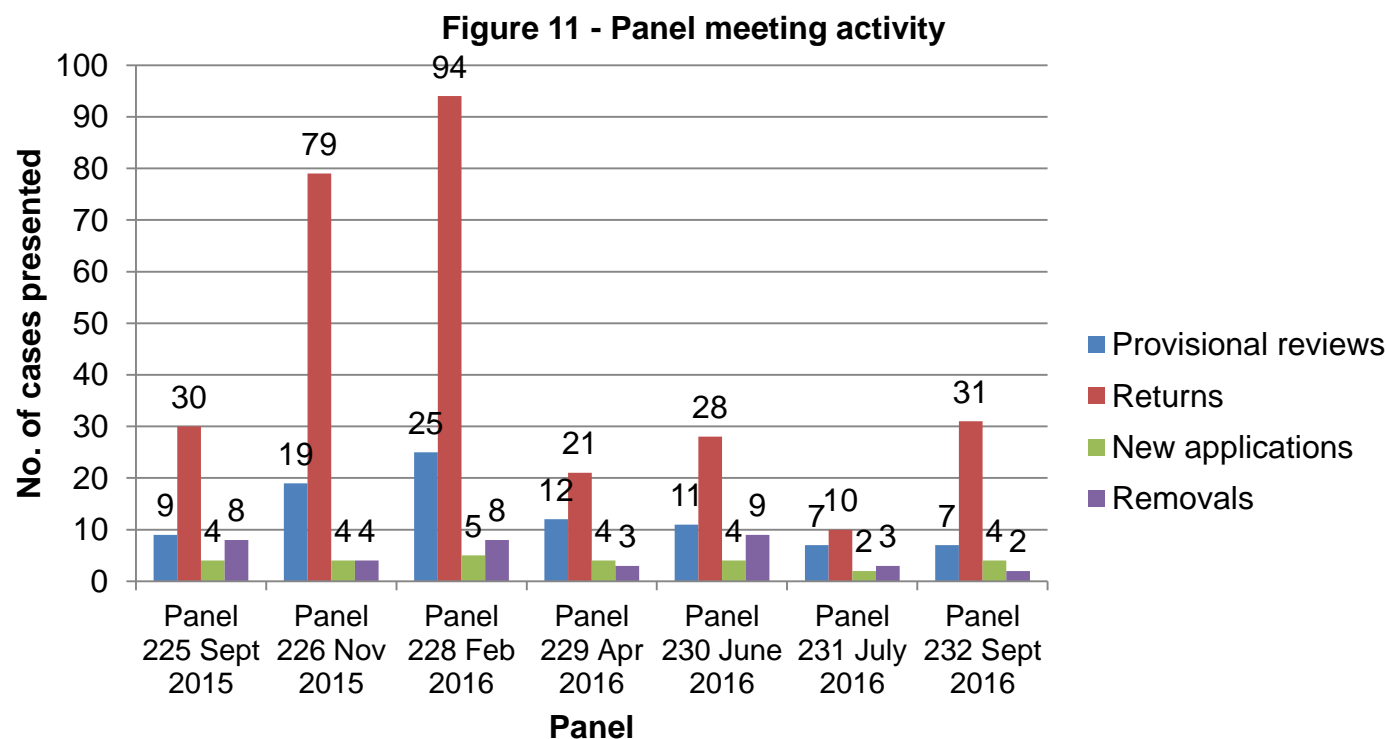
More information about the Accreditation Committee is available on our website:
<http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/accreditation-scheme/accreditation-how-apply>.

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

	Sept 2015		Nov 2015		Feb 2016		Apr 2016		June 2016		July 2016		Sept 2016		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Provisional reviews	9	17.6	19	17.6	25	18.8	12	30.0	11	21.2	7	31.8	7	15.9	90	20.1
Returns	30**	58.8**	79**	75.0	94	70.7	21	52.5	28	53.8	10	45.5	31	70.5	293	65.5
New applications	4	7.8	4	3.7	5	4.5	4	10	4	7.7	2	9.1	4	9.1	27	6.0
Removals	8**	15.7**	4	3.7	8	6.0	3	7.5	9	17.3	3	13.6	2	4.5	37	8.3
Total	51	99.9*	106**	100.0	132	100.0	40	100.0	52	100.0	22	100.0	44	100.0	447	99.9*

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

**Change due to correction in the data



Outcomes of return assessments

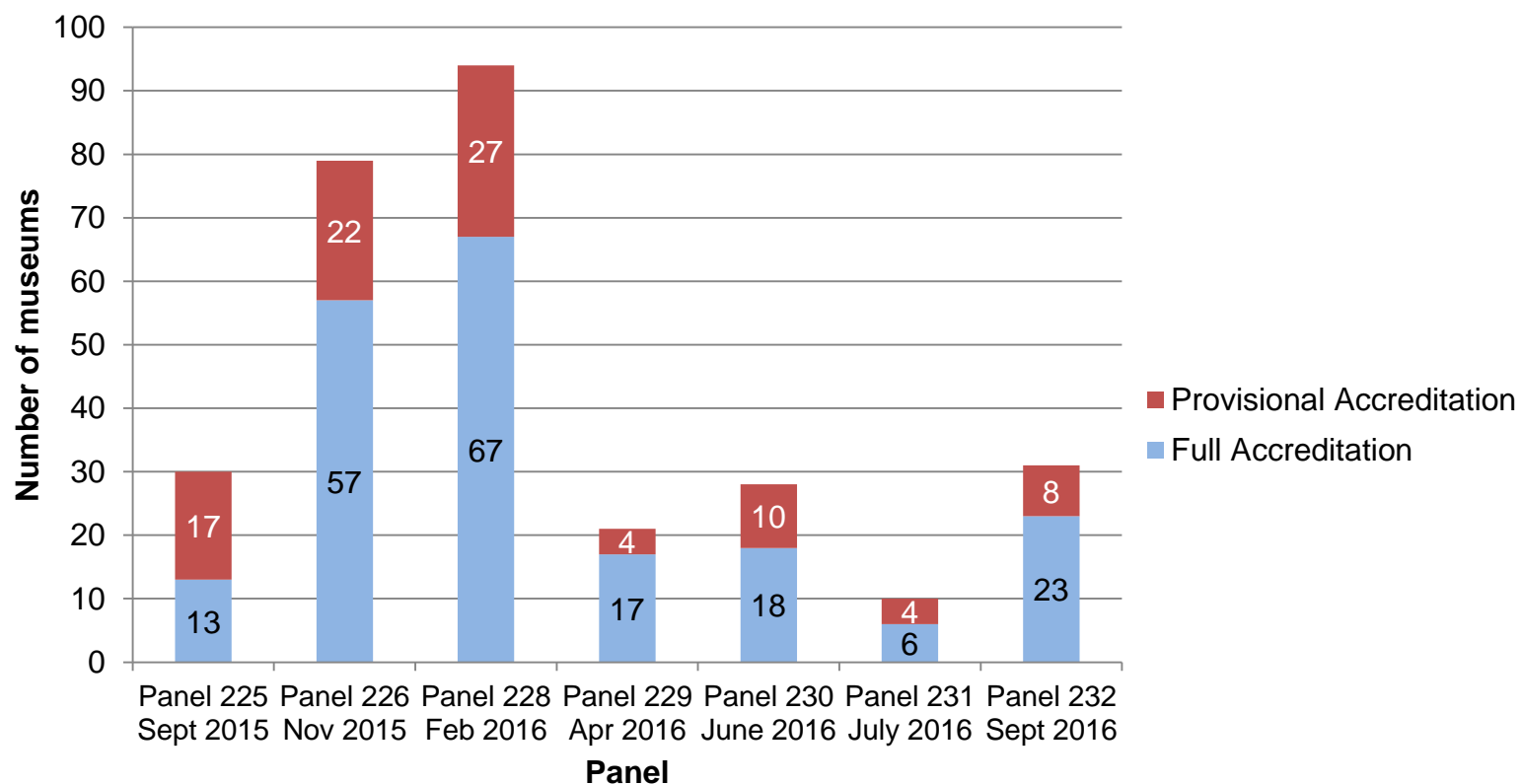
Table 2.10: Return outcomes at each panel meeting (September 2015 – September 2016)

	Sept 2015		Nov 2015		Feb 2016		Apr 2016		June 2016		July 2016		Sept 2016		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Full	13**	56.8	57**	72.8	67	71.3	17	81.0	18	64.2	6	60.0	23	74.2	201	68.6
Provisional	17**	43.2	22	27.2	27	28.7	4	19.0	10	35.7	4	40.0	8	25.8	92	31.4
Total	30**	100.0	79**	100.0	94	100.0	21	100.0	28	99.9*	10	100.0	31	100.0	293	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/supporting-museums/accreditation-scheme-0>

[checked 2016-09-27]

4 Enquiries

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

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