

Information Governance
Strategic Services

Mr Maciej Wójtowicz
[request-537870-
697e2de6@whatdotheyknow.co
m](mailto:697e2de6@whatdotheyknow.com)

Our ref: FOI/ E31990

Date: 08.01.2019

Ask for: Information Governance

Tel: 020 8430 2000

Fax: 020 8430 1504

Email:

information.governance@newham.gov.uk

Dear Mr Wojtowicz,

Request for Information: Freedom of Information Act 2000
Please quote our reference: E31990
Subject: Ethnological Human Remains Collections

We write with regard to your recent enquiry for information held by the Council under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

We trust that the information provided is satisfactory. You are free to use the information for your personal use only. For future reference we publish information on our website, including the Freedom of Information Publication Scheme.

It is important to note that under the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003 the Council asks not to receive unsolicited marketing communication.

Request

I am carrying out some research into the storage, retention and repatriation of non-European ethnological human remains held in UK regional museums or archives some of which are owned, managed or funded by UK local authorities.

To assist with this could you please let me have the following information under the Freedom of Information Act. All of these questions relate to human remains that are under 1,000 years of age. If your organisation is not covered by the Freedom of Information Act please consider supporting this research anyway and providing the information voluntarily. A link to the research will be provided to all contributors when it is published:

1. How many non-European human remains do you have in your collection or collections managed by organisations which you fund or control? If you do not have the exact number then please provide an approximation based on your normal method of counting.
2. How many human remains do you have in your collection which originated in:

- a. Canada
- b. New Zealand
- c. Australia

3. How many requests for the repatriation of human remains have you had from communities, individuals or institutions outside of Europe since the Human Tissue Act 2004 came into force?

4. Of these requests, how many were:

- a. Approved in full, with all of the requested remains being returned to the communities/individuals in question.
- b. Approved in part with some of the requested remains being returned.
- c. Not approved.
- d. Still awaiting a decision.

5. For those requests which were not approved please provide a copy of the final decision letter setting out the reasons.

6. How many human remains have you repatriated to their country of origin proactively without receiving a request?

Response

We do not hold the requested information.

The Local Authority does not manage any museums in the borough.

If you require any further information or are not happy with our response please do not hesitate to contact a member of our team on (020) 8430 2000 or email us at information.governance@newham.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Information Governance
Newham Council