

**Wellcome Trust
Human Tissue Authority Consultation on proposed new licence fees
Public Display Response
5 March 2009**

Question 1: What impact, if any, will the proposed changes to the licence fee have on your establishment or your sector? Please provide evidence if possible.

The Wellcome Trust holds one licence for public display at its premises at 183/215 Euston Road, licence number 12180. We do not envision that your proposed increase from £3600 to £3750 will adversely affect our establishment.

However, as we have stated in previous consultations (as recently as November 2008) and communications with the HTA, we have major concerns that the cost and burden of licensing the museum sector is disproportionately high, given the low-risk nature of the sector's activities. We also believe that the smaller museums will find the fourfold proposed increase for storing fewer than 20 items particularly onerous, especially given the current economic environment. We are conscious that efficiency savings are occurring in other sectors and trust that the HTA is exploring the possibility of streamlining inspection processes.

In relation to the proposal to establish an individual activity-based fee for temporary exhibitions, we are not adverse to this idea in principle but are keen to know how this fee would be calculated.

Question 2: The proposed fees have been calculated on a risk and activity-based model. Do you think that other factors should be taken into account?

We support the principles underlying the risk and activity-based model – i.e. whereby regulated activities that present greater risk will inevitably take up more of the HTA's resources and should consequently be charged a greater fee. However, this model could also incorporate other factors; for example new licence applications, which would require a greater amount of the HTA's time than a licence renewal, could incur a higher fee than a licence renewal.

Question 3: Do you have any other comments about the licence fee structure for your establishment or for your sector as a whole?

Please refer to comments contained in response to questions 1 and 2.