

Substances controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001

Many museums currently hold substances controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001. To legalise this situation a licence to possess the substances is required from the Home Office. Whilst most museums already hold such licences, with the frequent additions to the list of substances coming under control, it is possible that some collections have been overlooked, and still require licensing. Licenses to possess are required whether controlled substances are locked away in a store, or whether on display

The easiest way to check if anything in your collection requires to be licensed is via the Home Office website, which has a list of all substances controlled under the Regulations:

www.drugs.gov.uk/drugs-laws/licensing

If you find you are in possession of substances that appear to require licensing, then an application form can also be found on this site. This form should not take any more than 15 minutes to complete. Before a licence can be granted, a visit will be made by a Home Office Inspector to agree appropriate security levels and operating procedures for maintaining the collections. With the levels of security already in place at most museums it is unlikely that much, if any changes would be required. Licenses currently cost £30 per drug per year. The Home Office expects to issue a licence within one month of receiving an application.

If you feel this may affect your collection but are unsure please contact any of the following who will be pleased to give advice.

Home Office Drugs Licensing – 0207 035 0483

Drugs Inspectorate (South) – 0207 035 0482

Drugs Inspectorate (North – including Scotland) – 0113 220 4570