



Media statement: Update on the review of the National Art Library, the final phase of the museum's ongoing Covid-19 recovery programme.

For release Wednesday 10 November 2021

As part of the concluding phase of its COVID-19 Recovery Programme, the V&A commissioned two external consultants to lead a comprehensive review of the National Art Library (NAL) and V&A archive services. The recommendations of this review are currently with staff and trade union representatives for consultation.

The review recognises that the National Art Library and Archives are jewels of the V&A, possessing unique collections and expertise, and underpinning cutting-edge scholarship within and beyond the museum. Recommendations from this review, subject to consultation, outline a transformation programme that will enhance access to knowledge for all users by balancing our onsite services with improved provision of collections and information to remote users. The programme will increase the library's visibility and maximise its new position within the V&A Research Institute (VARI) and the V&A as a whole. The proposals include the creation of a new role, Chief Librarian, to oversee the online and onsite renewal of the NAL and the development of an expanded body of skills.

The review also put forward new recommendations for staffing which reduced the number of prospective job losses from early proposals. Any impacts for existing staff are of course unwelcome and the proposals are now with staff and Trade Union representatives for consultation.

The National Art Library will reopen on 12 January 2022. Further details including opening hours will be shared in due course.

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