

# Export Licences for Paintings and Works on Paper

Please note that this document was produced by the National Gallery of Ireland and is intended as a guide only, it is not an official government document. We advise applicants to read the relevant legislation and to consult the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht regarding advice in relation to export licences.

## 1. Export of Paintings and Works on Paper from Ireland to other EU Member States

Licences to export cultural objects from Ireland to destinations within the EU are issued by the relevant National Cultural Institution and/or the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht depending on the nature of the cultural object involved.

The National Gallery of Ireland is the Cultural Institution authorised to process export licences for paintings and works on paper executed entirely by hand which are being exported within the EU.

### Relevant Legislation

In July 2015 parts of Sections 6 and 49 of the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997 came into operation<sup>1</sup>. These sections repeal the Documents and Pictures (Regulation of Export) Act, 1945 and introduce new provisions governing the export of paintings.

The full text of the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997 can be found here:

[www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1997/act/11/enacted/en/index.html](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1997/act/11/enacted/en/index.html)

### Which artworks need an export licence?

- The NCI Act, 1997 applies to paintings on any medium and in any material executed entirely by hand (paintings, drawings, watercolours – no multiples).
- Artists do **not** need a licence if they are exporting their own work.
- Any artworks created within the last 25 years do **not** need a licence.
- Only artworks that originated here (have been made here) or have been in the country for more than 25 years need a licence.

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<sup>1</sup> Specifically, the following sections of the Cultural Institutions Act (1997) were brought into force:

Section 6(1), in so far as it relates to the repeal of the Documents and Pictures (Regulation of Export) Act 1945 (No. 29 of 1945),  
(b) section 6(2), in so far as it is not already in operation, and  
(c) in section 49—  
(i) paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of subsection (1),  
(ii) subsection (2),  
(iii) subsection (4), in relation to any document or painting,  
(iv) subsection (5), in relation to paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (1), and (v) subsection (15)

## How do I apply for an export licence from the National Gallery of Ireland (NGI)?

- Applicants require an application form (2 parts) which is available from the Exhibitions and Collection Services Department, National Gallery of Ireland (E: [cclarke@ngi.ie](mailto:cclarke@ngi.ie)) or can be downloaded from the NGI website here: [www.nationalgallery.ie/export\\_licences](http://www.nationalgallery.ie/export_licences)
- The application form needs to be completed fully (IN BLOCK CAPITALS) and signed, and the original posted to: Caroline Clarke, Collection Registrar, Exhibitions and Collection Services Department, National Gallery of Ireland, Merrion Square West, Dublin 2.
- Good quality colour photographs are required for all paintings and should accompany the export licence application.
- Where applications consist of 10 or more items, a list (A4 size and preferably typed) of these items should be submitted as well as an individual "Description of Painting" form for each work.
- The NGI's Board of Governors and Guardians review and sign Export Licences at their regular meetings throughout the year. Please contact the Collection Registrar (E: [cclarke@ngi.ie](mailto:cclarke@ngi.ie)) to check when the next scheduled meeting is due to take place.
- Please note applications need to be received at least one week prior to the above meeting. If you are submitting multiple applications together (5 or more) or individual applications with multiple works (10 or more) please note that these applications will need to be received at least two weeks prior to the above meeting.
- Licences are issued in triplicate. The applicant will receive two copies of the export licence. The NGI recommends that one copy travels with the artwork, and that the applicant keeps the other copy for their files. A third copy is kept on file by the NGI.
- Applicants can collect the licences directly from the NGI on an agreed date. If you wish for the licence to be posted please enclose a stamped addressed envelope with the application.

## 2. Export of Cultural Goods (including Paintings and Works on Paper) from Ireland to Non-EU Member States

The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht is the competent authority for the issue of licences to export cultural goods / objects to destinations outside the EU.

### Relevant Legislation

All applications for such licences are considered having regard to the provision of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1081/2012 which lays down provisions for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 116/2009 on the export of cultural goods.

For further information please contact:

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