

DCMS Sectors Economic Estimates

The Heritage Alliance

16 March 2018

The Heritage Alliance is England's largest coalition of independent heritage interests. We unite over a 115 organisations which together have over 7 million members, volunteers, trustees and staff. The vast majority of England's historic environment is owned, managed and cared for by Heritage Alliance members.

The Heritage Alliance welcomes this opportunity to [provide feedback](#) on the extent to which the DCMS Sectors Economic Estimates statistics meet the professional standards set out in the statutory Code of Practice for Statistics.

The Alliance endorses the feedback submitted by Historic England who have been leading on this issue on behalf of the heritage sector. The DCMS statistics cannot be relied upon for the heritage sector and present a very misleading picture of the sector's impact and importance. This makes the Alliance's advocacy role much harder as we have to present a case that DCMS' own statistics can't be relied on.

The problems with the current situation were highlighted at our annual Heritage Day at which the Minister spoke about the sector's value based on DCMS statistics. This was followed by the launch of Heritage Counts, the sectors own statistics, which gave a much higher figure. The unhelpful contrast was noted by many.

As a result, of the poor economic evidence base for the sector within Government, the good news stories which statistics generate for other DCMS sectors is missed for the heritage sector. This means less chances for the Government to promote the heritage sector and sets up the idea that the heritage sector is smaller and less valuable than other areas of DCMS' remit.

We welcome the fact that the statistics' limitations in relation to the heritage sector are now noted but this does not go far enough. As Historic England set out in their response a change of method is vital. Until then safeguards should be put in place to ensure that the misleading figures for heritage do not find their way into Government policy.

For further information, please contact The Heritage Alliance.

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