For Immediate Release

Media Statement on the National Art Library in relation to proposed restructure of the V&A Curatorial, Research and National Art Library departments, within the Collections Division

Despite emergency support from government, the V&A is facing a £10m annual deficit – consequently, with deep regret, we have been forced to explore all routes to reduce costs across the museum in order to protect our future. We are currently in a formal consultation process on proposed restructures of the teams working in the National Art Library. The National Art Library’s exceptional collection and iconic spaces are fundamental to the V&A. Our proposals would protect and expand its remit in the future, opening the Reading Room to more visitors while increasing digital access for audiences worldwide. A special collections Reading Room would be maintained, to provide a space for scholarly and specialist research into the exceptional historic and contemporary library and manuscripts collection. Our priority now is consulting openly and meaningfully with our staff and trade union colleagues on these proposals and supporting our staff community through this difficult process.

-ENDS-

For further PRESS information please contact press.office@vam.ac.uk (not for publication).