



News Release

## **Trustee reappointed to the Victoria and Albert Museum Board**

London, 15 June 2026: The Prime Minister has reappointed Professor Rosalind Polly Blakesley as Trustee of the Victoria and Albert Museum for a term of 4 years.

### **Professor Rosaline Polly Blakesley**

Professor Blakesley has been reappointed for a period of 4 years, commencing on 5 September 2026 to 4 September 2030.

Professor Rosalind Polly Blakesley has been the Master of Pembroke College, Cambridge, since October 2025. A prize-winning author, academic and art historian, she has worked at the University of Cambridge since 2002, holding the post of Professor of Russian and European Art since 2018. She has served on the boards of the National Portrait Gallery, Fitzwilliam Museum, Hamilton Kerr Institute and Kettle's Yard, and is currently a Trustee of the Samuel Courtauld Trust.

An expert on the visual culture of imperial Russia and Northern Europe, Professor Blakesley's books include *Women Artists in the Reign of Catherine the Great*, *The Russian Canvas*, and *The Arts and Crafts Movement*, as well as co-edited volumes and exhibition catalogues. She has worked with cultural and educational institutions around the world and curated exhibitions in Britain, Russia and the USA, including a pioneering exchange between the National Portrait Gallery in London and the State Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow. Awards for her scholarship and cultural diplomacy include the Pushkin Medal and the Pushkin House Book Prize.

Professor Rosalind Polly Blakesley chairs a critical V&A Committee (V&A Research Committee) and has distinctive expertise in research that is relevant to the V&A's Collection.

### **Remuneration and Governance Code**

Trustees of the Victoria & Albert Museum are not remunerated.

This appointment has been made in accordance with the Cabinet Office's [Governance Code on Public Appointments](#). The appointments process is regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. Under the Code, any significant political activity undertaken by an appointee in the last five years must be declared. This is defined as including holding office, public speaking, making a recordable donation, or candidature for election.

Professor Rosalind Polly Blakesley has declared no such political activity.

### **Notes to Editors**

DCMS has around 400 regulated Public Appointed roles across 42 [Public Bodies](#) including Arts Council England, Theatres Trust, the National Gallery, UK Sport and the Gambling Commission. We encourage applications from talented individuals from all backgrounds and across the whole of the United Kingdom. To find out more about Public Appointments or to apply visit the [HM Government Public Appointments Website](#).