



Media Statement - Industrial Action 4 and 5 September 2026

Due to planned industrial action, we have made the difficult decision to close V&A East Museum and Storehouse, and Young V&A on the 4 and 5 September. We are very sorry for the inconvenience to our visitors. V&A South Kensington and *Schiaparelli: Fashion Becomes Art* will remain open, but there may be individual gallery closures so visitors should check the website before travelling.

We deeply regret that the Trade Unions have voted for strike action. We have been negotiating with them in good faith since February and have met the majority of their demands with a significantly improved offer, which we believe is fair, competitive and affordable.

Our latest pay offer delivers a pay rise well above inflation for all staff, with an average 4.18% pay rise and a 6.9% increase for our lowest-paid colleagues; a bank holiday pay rate increase to 1.5, alongside a sector-leading bonus scheme; our longstanding commitment to paying at least the London Living Wage and a subsidised food offer at all of our sites.

All our staff have regular breaks and access to drinking water. Water fountains are provided on every floor at V&A East Storehouse, which also has an air-cooling system. Extensive heatwave mitigations have also been put in place across our museums.

We value our staff enormously and remain fully committed to providing safe, supportive working environments in all our museums.

We remain available for negotiations with our Trade Union colleagues.