

## The Clockworks: loans policy

### Who we are

The Clockworks is a hub for electrical horology in West Norwood, London. Across two galleries and a library, we display an internationally significant collection of objects relating to the history and development of precision and networked timekeeping, as well as early meters, telegraphs and timers, spanning 1840-1970.

In addition to objects, the collection includes a substantial horology library and archive of records and ephemera, much of it with a connection to nineteenth and early twentieth-century clock companies (including Gent, Synchronome, Lowne and Gillett & Johnston).

The collection was assembled over several decades by the horologist and historian James Nye, who continues to be actively involved in the display and development of The Clockworks. Day-to-day running of the collection is undertaken by two members of regular staff – a Curator and Conservator. The museum is currently open by appointment.

### Why we lend

The Clockworks is actively seeking to broaden public access to the collection through external loans. In doing so, we are guided by the following aims:

- To make the collection more generally accessible, and to allow objects to be seen in wider contexts by more diverse audiences, including those outside the horology community;
- To support and enhance the reputation of The Clockworks as a hub for electrical horology;
- To further public knowledge and understanding of the history of networked and precision timekeeping;

- To increase co-operation and partnership working with other museums and galleries, both nationally and internationally;
- To promote research into the collection and its broader contexts, including the history of horology, but also art, literature, society and politics surrounding timekeeping and time networks in the mid- to late nineteenth century and early twentieth century.

## **Who we lend to**

We offer short-term loans (up to a year in duration) and will lend to public museums, galleries, libraries, educational institutions, and commercial organisations for appropriate purposes.

We will consider lending to any venue that provides public access and is able to meet our loan conditions.

We do not normally charge a fee for loans, but we do ask borrowers to meet our direct costs, such as insurance, packing and transportation. We also ask borrowers to acknowledge The Clockworks and its charitable work prominently within the exhibition or display, and in any relevant marketing or promotional material surrounding it.

## **Our loans process**

We welcome scoping visits to the collection and informal conversations early in the planning process.

We normally ask for at least six months' notice of a loan, but can occasionally make exceptions: please contact us to discuss what is possible.

Formal loan requests should be made in writing to the Curator.

Please include:

- Details of the object(s) requested, including inventory number, if you have it;
- Title and dates of exhibition or display;
- The venue address and names and contact details of key staff involved;

- A rationale for the inclusion of Clockworks objects in your exhibition, display or project;
- A complete UKRG Facilities report for your institution (you can download this from the UKRG website - [Microsoft Word - UKRG facilities report](#))

## **Granting a loan**

In granting requests, we are guided by the principles outlined above, but will also take into account:

- The academic / intellectual integrity of the exhibition / project;
- The physical suitability of the object for transport and display.

## **Refusing a loan**

We try to grant loan requests where possible. These are some reasons we might refuse:

- The object has already been committed elsewhere;
- We do not feel sufficient rationale has been given for the loan;
- The object is of a physical nature that would make it inappropriate to lend;
- The proposed project will not be accessible to the public;
- Our display, environmental and security requirements cannot be met;
- The request has been put in with too little notice.

## **Once your loan is approved**

Once a loan has been approved, The Clockworks will issue a loan agreement, which must be signed by both parties and returned to the Curator prior to the loan taking place.

The Curator will be the ongoing single point of contact for the Borrower, with input from our Conservator-in-Residence.

**Contact details:**

The Clockworks  
6 Nettlefold Place  
London SE27 0JW

Kirsten Tambling, Curator  
[curator@theclockworks.org](mailto:curator@theclockworks.org)

07496 699 441  
020 8676 4856

*Updated January 2026, to be reviewed and updated no later than January 2028.*