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Museum in peril; The Government should not presume that the public will come to the rescue of Wedgwood Museum

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Sir, As Simon Tait points out ("Prizewinning museum hit by pension debts", Register, Feb 4), this is a sink-or-swim week for the Wedgwood Museum - and for other museum collections held in trust around the UK. The Attorney-General will decide whether or not to appeal the High Court's ruling that its unique collections can be sold to contribute towards the Wedgwood Company's £134 million pension deficit.

This internationally important, Unesco-recognised collection tells and embodies the story of 250 years of British art and design, society, science and politics, as much as of the UK pottery industry itself. It is unthinkable that it could be broken up and sold.

The Government should not presume that the public will come to the rescue and raise the money needed to save the collection. The Attorney- General must surely appeal the court's decision: common sense must prevail.

Stephen Deuchar Director, The Art Fund

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