



Department for
**Employment
and Learning**
www.delni.gov.uk

Mr Peter Hall
Clerk to the Committee
Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure
Room 344
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3XX

Adelaide House
39/49 Adelaide Street
Belfast
BT2 8FD
Tel: 028 9025 7777
Fax: 028 9025 7778
email: private.office@delni.gov.uk

Our Ref: COR/112/2014

28 March 2014

Dear Peter

Thank you for your letter dated 10th March 2014, regarding the inquiry by the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure into inclusion in the Arts of Working Class Communities.

Attached at Appendix A, for the Committee's consideration, is a short note, highlighting the positive impact that further education makes, regarding promoting inclusion in the Arts, through the provision of a range of educational opportunities.

In order to grow a prosperous and inclusive society, it is important that no individual, regardless of their economic circumstances, is starved of the opportunity to take part in the Arts and attend arts-related venues. To that end, the Department welcomes the inquiry and hopes it leads to increased participation and attendance in all Arts activities, right across Northern Ireland.

Yours sincerely

FIONA STANLEY
Departmental Assembly Liaison Officer



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE

Participation in arts related courses in further education

1. Further education colleges across Northern Ireland offer a broad range of accredited and non-accredited (hobby and leisure) provision, in a wide variety of arts related subject areas, including literature, performing arts, visual arts and other forms of creative media.
2. During 2012/13, the latest year which validated statistical information is available, further education colleges had 13,865 enrolments on accredited creative arts and design courses. Further education colleges continue to perform strongly in engaging those from more deprived areas, with 22% of these enrolments coming from the 20% most deprived wards of Northern Ireland, compared to 12% of enrolments, which were drawn from the 20% most affluent wards.
3. In addition, a further 33,538 enrolments in 2012/13 were undertaking a non-accredited creative arts and design course in further education. Just under half (43%) of these enrolments came from the 40% most deprived wards in Northern Ireland.