



From: The Minister

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Causeway Exchange
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Belfast
BT2 7EG**

e-mail: private.office@communities-ni.gov.uk

Our ref: AQW 26734/22-27

Date: 23 June 2025

Ciara Ferguson MLA
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3XX

Dear Ciara,

AQW 26734/22-27

You recently submitted an Assembly Written Question AQW 26734/22-27 requesting a breakdown of the total funding allocated under the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's Annual Funding Programme, broken down by: (i) art form; (ii) constituency/geographical spread; and (iii) type of organisation, over the last three financial years up to and including 25/26.

As outlined in my response, due to the volume of detail required to provide a full answer, I have arranged for the information attached at Annex A to be placed in the Assembly Library.

Yours sincerely,

Gordon Lyons MLA
Minister for Communities



Annex A

AQW 26734 22/27 To ask the Minister for Communities to outline a breakdown of the total funding allocated under the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's Annual Funding Programme, broken down by: (i) art form; (ii) constituency/geographical spread; and (iii) type of organisation, over the last three financial years up to and including 25/26.

This issue is an operational matter for the Arts Council.

I have sought the requested information from the Chief Executive, who has advised me as follows:

“Please see the attached breakdown of the total funding allocated under the Arts Council of Northern Ireland’s Annual Funding Programme for the last 3 financial years (2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26).

Please note, the breakdowns provided for 2025/26 reflect interim grants awarded for the first 3 months of the financial year.

2025/26:

| Artform | Total Grant Amount |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Circus/Street Theatre/Carnival | £102,170.00 |
| Community Arts | £228,994.00 |
| Craft | £35,851.00 |
| Dance | £48,023.00 |
| Drama | £568,188.00 |
| Festivals | £156,258.00 |
| Health & Disability | £82,964.00 |



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| <i>Literature</i> | <i>£74,045.00</i> |
| <i>Music</i> | <i>£746,460.00</i> |
| <i>Opera</i> | <i>£144,662.00</i> |
| <i>Other</i> | <i>£138,736.00</i> |
| <i>Traditional Arts</i> | <i>£129,501.00</i> |
| <i>Venues</i> | <i>£459,495.00</i> |
| <i>Visual Arts</i> | <i>£261,514.00</i> |
| <i>Youth Arts</i> | <i>£77,562.00</i> |
| Grand Total | £3,254,423.00 |

| Constituency | Total Grant Amount |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>BELFAST EAST</i> | <i>£194,703.00</i> |
| <i>BELFAST NORTH</i> | <i>£792,464.00</i> |
| <i>BELFAST SOUTH</i> | <i>£913,724.00</i> |
| <i>BELFAST WEST</i> | <i>£776,236.00</i> |
| <i>EAST LONDONDERRY</i> | <i>£49,621.00</i> |
| <i>FERMANAGH AND SOUTH TYRONE</i> | <i>£11,853.00</i> |
| <i>FOYLE</i> | <i>£358,988.00</i> |
| <i>LAGAN VALLEY</i> | <i>£8,748.00</i> |
| <i>MID ULSTER</i> | <i>£9,073.00</i> |
| <i>NEWRY AND ARMAGH</i> | <i>£36,237.00</i> |
| <i>NORTH DOWN</i> | <i>£39,618.00</i> |
| <i>SOUTH DOWN</i> | <i>£12,897.00</i> |
| <i>WEST TYRONE</i> | <i>£18,180.00</i> |
| <i>OTHER¹</i> | <i>£32,081.00</i> |
| Grand Total | £3,254,423.00 |

| Geographical Area | Total Grant Amount |
|--|---------------------------|
| <i>Ards and North Down</i> | <i>£39,618.00</i> |
| <i>Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon</i> | <i>£23,431.00</i> |
| <i>Belfast</i> | <i>£2,652,466.00</i> |



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|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Causeway Coast and Glens</i> | <i>£49,621.00</i> |
| <i>Derry and Strabane</i> | <i>£358,988.00</i> |
| <i>Fermanagh and Omagh</i> | <i>£30,033.00</i> |
| <i>Lisburn and Castlereagh</i> | <i>£33,409.00</i> |
| <i>Mid Ulster</i> | <i>£9,073.00</i> |
| <i>Newry, Mourne and Down</i> | <i>£25,703.00</i> |
| <i>Other¹</i> | <i>£32,081.00</i> |
| Grand Total | £3,254,423.00 |

2024/25:

| Artform | Total Grant Amount |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Circus/Street Theatre/Carnival</i> | <i>£408,684.00</i> |
| <i>Community Arts</i> | <i>£915,988.00</i> |
| <i>Craft</i> | <i>£143,404.00</i> |
| <i>Dance</i> | <i>£305,007.00</i> |
| <i>Drama</i> | <i>£2,272,757.00</i> |
| <i>Festivals</i> | <i>£625,041.00</i> |
| <i>Health & Disability</i> | <i>£331,860.00</i> |
| <i>Literature</i> | <i>£296,182.00</i> |
| <i>Music</i> | <i>£3,046,647.00</i> |
| <i>Opera</i> | <i>£578,651.00</i> |
| <i>Other</i> | <i>£554,944.00</i> |
| <i>Traditional Arts</i> | <i>£518,019.00</i> |
| <i>Venues</i> | <i>£1,887,987.00</i> |
| <i>Visual Arts</i> | <i>£1,046,078.00</i> |
| <i>Youth Arts</i> | <i>£310,252.00</i> |
| Grand Total | £13,241,501.00 |



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| Constituency | Total Grant Amount |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| BELFAST EAST | £839,618.00 |
| BELFAST NORTH | £3,169,875.00 |
| BELFAST SOUTH | £3,704,914.00 |
| BELFAST WEST | £3,104,958.00 |
| EAST LONDONDERRY | £198,486.00 |
| FERMANAGH AND SOUTH TYRONE | £47,415.00 |
| FOYLE | £1,548,882.00 |
| LAGAN VALLEY | £34,995.00 |
| MID ULSTER | £36,294.00 |
| NEWRY AND ARMAGH | £144,953.00 |
| NORTH DOWN | £158,474.00 |
| SOUTH DOWN | £51,588.00 |
| WEST TYRONE | £72,722.00 |
| OTHER ¹ | £128,327.00 |
| Grand Total | £13,241,501.00 |

| Geographical Area | Total Grant Amount |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ards and North Down | £158,474.00 |
| Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon | £133,729.00 |
| Belfast | £10,819,365.00 |
| Causeway Coast and Glens | £248,486.00 |
| Derry and Strabane | £1,498,882.00 |
| Fermanagh and Omagh | £80,137.00 |
| Lisburn and Castlereagh | £34,995.00 |
| Mid Ulster | £36,294.00 |
| Newry, Mourne and Down | £102,812.00 |
| Other ¹ | £128,327.00 |
| Grand Total | £13,241,501.00 |



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2023/24:

| Artform | Total Grant Amount |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Circus/Street Theatre/Carnival</i> | <i>£429,276.00</i> |
| <i>Community Arts</i> | <i>£916,432.00</i> |
| <i>Craft</i> | <i>£145,509.00</i> |
| <i>Dance</i> | <i>£331,112.00</i> |
| <i>Drama</i> | <i>£2,302,201.00</i> |
| <i>Festival</i> | <i>£585,380.00</i> |
| <i>Health & Disability</i> | <i>£335,235.00</i> |
| <i>Literature</i> | <i>£291,888.00</i> |
| <i>Music</i> | <i>£3,487,528.00</i> |
| <i>Opera</i> | <i>£660,409.00</i> |
| <i>Other</i> | <i>£570,932.00</i> |
| <i>Traditional Arts</i> | <i>£490,792.00</i> |
| <i>Venues</i> | <i>£977,255.00</i> |
| <i>Visual Arts</i> | <i>£1,056,945.00</i> |
| <i>Youth Arts</i> | <i>£315,629.00</i> |
| Grand Total | £12,896,523.00 |

| Constituency | Total Grant Amount |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>BELFAST EAST</i> | <i>£763,731.00</i> |
| <i>BELFAST NORTH</i> | <i>£2,189,288.00</i> |
| <i>BELFAST SOUTH</i> | <i>£3,830,063.00</i> |
| <i>BELFAST WEST</i> | <i>£3,507,270.00</i> |
| <i>EAST LONDONDERRY</i> | <i>£141,944.00</i> |
| <i>FERMANAGH AND SOUTH TYRONE</i> | <i>£49,965.00</i> |
| <i>FOYLE</i> | <i>£1,698,673.00</i> |
| <i>LAGAN VALLEY</i> | <i>£35,128.00</i> |
| <i>MID ULSTER</i> | <i>£41,794.00</i> |
| <i>NEWRY AND ARMAGH</i> | <i>£146,478.00</i> |
| <i>NORTH DOWN</i> | <i>£169,223.00</i> |
| <i>SOUTH DOWN</i> | <i>£51,588.00</i> |



| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>UPPER BANN</i> | <i>£60,797.00</i> |
| <i>WEST TYRONE</i> | <i>£33,582.00</i> |
| <i>OTHER¹</i> | <i>£176,999.00</i> |
| <i>Grand Total</i> | <i>£12,896,523.00</i> |

| <i>Geographical Area</i> | <i>Total Grant Amount</i> |
|--|----------------------------------|
| <i>Ards and North Down</i> | <i>£169,223.00</i> |
| <i>Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon</i> | <i>£156,051.00</i> |
| <i>Belfast</i> | <i>£10,283,102.00</i> |
| <i>Causeway Coast and Glens</i> | <i>£141,944.00</i> |
| <i>Derry and Strabane</i> | <i>£1,698,673.00</i> |
| <i>Fermanagh and Omagh</i> | <i>£83,547.00</i> |
| <i>Lisburn and Castlereagh</i> | <i>£42,378.00</i> |
| <i>Mid Ulster</i> | <i>£41,794.00</i> |
| <i>Newry, Mourne and Down</i> | <i>£102,812.00</i> |
| <i>Other¹</i> | <i>£176,999.00</i> |
| <i>Grand Total</i> | <i>£12,896,523.00</i> |

¹ Relates to organisations based in the Republic of Ireland.

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In terms of part (iii) of the question, the organisation is categorised by art form in the tables above.

For any future queries relating to operational matters, you may wish to contact the Arts Council directly. Making direct contact with the Arts Council will ensure that you receive the information in the shortest possible timeframe and make best use of public resources.