

From: The Minister

16 April 2026

Timothy Gaston MLA
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3XX

Dear Timothy,

AQW 29016/22-27 – INFORMATION TO BE PLACED IN THE ASSEMBLY LIBRARY

Due to the volume of detail required to answer AQW 29016/22-27, the information attached at Annex A has been placed in the Assembly Library.

Yours sincerely,



**Gordon Lyons MLA
Minister for Communities**

Annex A

AQW 29016/22-27 To ask the Minister for Communities to detail all funding provided by his Department and its arm's-length bodies to theatres since the restoration of the Executive in February 2024.

My Department has not provided any funding to theatres since February 2024. The Arts Council, an arm's length body of my Department with responsibility for the funding and development of the arts in Northern Ireland, has provided the following funding:

List of awards to Theatres* since February 2024.

Financial Year	Programme	Organisation Name	Grant Amount	Fund
2024-2025	Organisations Digital Evolution Awards	Accidental Theatre	£10,000.00	Lottery
2024-2025	National Lottery - Project Funding	Accidental Theatre	£23,000.00	Lottery
2025-2026	Arts and Older People	Accidental Theatre	£9,000.00	Lottery

2025-2026	National Lottery - Project Funding	Accidental Theatre	£23,000.00	Lottery
2024-2025	Rural Engagement Arts Programme	Bardic Theatre	£8,035.00	Lottery
2025-2026	Rural Engagement Arts Programme	Bardic Theatre	£10,000.00	Lottery
2025-2026	Small Capital Programme	Bardic Theatre	£15,000.00	Exchequer
2025-2026	Small Capital Programme	Cahoots NI Ltd	£10,928.00	Exchequer
2025-2026	Annual Funding Programme	Cahoots NI Ltd	£117,268.00	Exchequer
2024-2025	Small Capital Programme	Cahoots NI Ltd	£13,250.00	Exchequer
2024-2025	Annual Funding Programme	Cahoots NI Ltd	£112,308.00	Exchequer
2023-2024	Annual Funding Programme	Cahoots NI Ltd	£7,423.00	Exchequer

2024-2025	Small Capital Programme	Derry Theatre Trust Ltd t/a The Millennium Forum	£4,866.00	Exchequer
2024-2025	Annual Funding Programme	Derry Theatre Trust Ltd t/a The Millennium Forum	£90,250.00	Exchequer
2025-2026	Arts and Mental Health Partnership Programme	Derry Theatre Trust Ltd t/a The Millennium Forum	£17,954.00	Lottery
2025-2026	Annual Funding Programme	Derry Theatre Trust Ltd t/a The Millennium Forum	£107,202.00	Exchequer
2024-2025	Annual Funding Programme	North West Play Resource Centre (The Playhouse)	£216,811.00	Exchequer
2025-2026	Organisations Digital Evolution Awards	North West Play Resource Centre (The Playhouse)	£9,917.00	Lottery
2025-2026	Annual Funding Programme	North West Play Resource Centre (The Playhouse)	£232,807.00	Exchequer
2024-2025	Annual Funding Programme	The Grand Opera House Trust	£206,880.00	Exchequer

2025-2026	Annual Funding Programme	The Grand Opera House Trust	£156,880.00	Exchequer
2024-2025	Annual Funding Programme	The Lyric Theatre (NI)	£1,400,000.00	Exchequer
2025-2026	Annual Funding Programme	The Lyric Theatre (NI)	£1,615,000.00	Exchequer
2023-2024	Health & Safety Capital Programme	The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre)	£10,935.00	Exchequer
2023-2024	DfC Monitoring Round	The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre)	£397,338.00	Exchequer
2024-2025	Annual Funding Programme	The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre)	£1,100,500.00	Exchequer
2025-2026	Arts and Mental Health Partnership Programme	The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre)	£18,040.00	Lottery
2025-2026	DfC Capital Fund	The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre)	£155,000.00	Exchequer

2025-2026	Annual Funding Programme	The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre)	£1,200,500.00	Exchequer
-----------	--------------------------	------------------------------------	---------------	-----------

*This information relates to physical theatre buildings and their associated companies. Funding is also provided to a wider group of theatre companies across Northern Ireland who develop and produce theatrical work. Funding for the arts is disbursed by the Arts Council through Exchequer and National Lottery funding streams.