

From: The Minister

Date: 24 June 2026

Cara Hunter MLA
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3XX

Via email: Cara.Hunter@mla.niassembly.gov.uk

Dear Cara,

AQW 48477/22-27 – INFORMATION TO BE PLACED IN THE ASSEMBLY LIBRARY

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**

AQW 48477/22-27 - Annex A

This issue is an operational matter for the Arts Council, they have advised me as follows:

'The grant funding totals relate to those organisations awarded from the Arts Council's two main funding programmes, Annual Funding Programme (AFP) and National Lottery Programme Fund (NLPF) and includes awards from capital funds through Small Capital and Health & Safety programmes, along with other DfC Capital/Monitoring funds which are key in delivering their core purpose and programming.

Note that Array Studios, Creative Exchange, Creative Village Arts Ltd, Flax Art Studios Ltd, Paragon Studios, Queen Street Studios and Vault Artist Studios are the only dedicated studio and creative workspace facilities.

The others are organisations who include such provision in their premises. The figures represent the total grant in aid from Arts Council for all their programming and core costs. It is not possible to disaggregate the amount of funding each of these organisations allocates to artists' studios, music rehearsal spaces, and other creative workshop facilities.

Financial Year 2021-2026: Artists' Studios	Location		
Organisations Name	Belfast	Derry and Strabane	Total
Array Studios	£134,583		£134,583
Creative Exchange	£80,920		£80,920
Creative Village Arts Ltd		£8,414	£8,414
Flax Art Studios Ltd	£311,417		£311,417
Paragon Studios	£97,784		£97,784
Queen Street Studios	£187,164		£187,164
Vault Artist Studios	£9,757		£9,757
No. of organisations supported	6	1	
Total funding (2021-2026)	£821,625	£8,414	£830,039

Financial Year 2021-2026: Music Rehearsal Spaces	Location		
Organisations Name	Derry and Strabane	Fermanagh and Omagh	Total
<i>An Gaelaras</i>	£763,880		£763,880
<i>Dun Uladh Ltd</i>		£240,498	£240,498
No. of organisations supported	1	1	
Total funding (2021-2026)	£763,880	£240,498	£1,004,378

Financial Year 2021-2026: Creative Workshop Facilities	Location								
Organisation Name	Antrim and Newtownabbey	Belfast	Causeway Coast and Glens	Derry and Strabane	Fermanagh and Omagh	Mid Ulster	Newry, Mourne and Down	Ards and North Down	Total
174 Trust/The Duncairn		£491,588							£491,588
Accidental Theatre		£112,000							£112,000
Arts for All		£150,000							£150,000
Bardic Educational Arts and Media						£50,005			£50,005
Beat Carnival		£718,546							£718,546
Belfast Exposed Photography		£762,781							£762,781
Belfast Library and Society for Promoting Knowledge (Linen Hall Library)		£110,748							£110,748
Belfast Print Workshop		£242,500							£242,500
Brain Injury Matters		£128,225							£128,225
Brassneck Theatre Company		£221,034							£221,034
Bryson Energy		£177,935							£177,935
Cahoots NI Ltd		£608,639							£608,639
Carntogher Community Association						£184,845			£184,845
Circusful		£841,368							£841,368
Conway Education Centre		£9,000							£9,000
Craic						£155,572			£155,572
Creggan Education & Research Services					£25,210				£25,210
Crescent Arts Centre		£1,376,269							£1,376,269
Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich		£885,282							£885,282
Derry Theatre Trust Ltd t/a The Millennium Forum				£811,491					£811,491
Digital Arts Studios		£371,036							£371,036

Financial Year 2021-2026: Creative Workshop Facilities	Location								
Organisation Name	Antrim and Newtownabbey	Belfast	Causeway Coast and Glens	Derry and Strabane	Fermanagh and Omagh	Mid Ulster	Newry, Mourne and Down	Ards and North Down	Total
Drake Music Project Northern Ireland							£256,120		£256,120
Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company				£516,412					£516,412
Eden Place Arts Centre				£170,851					£170,851
Enterprise Causeway			£9,143						£9,143
Gasyard Development Trust - Bluebell Arts				£182,254					£182,254
Greater Shankill Partnership Property Dev. Co.		£189,378							£189,378
Greater Shantallow Community Arts				£957,889					£957,889
In Your Space Circus Ltd (YSC)				£516,096					£516,096
Liberty Consortium				£15,000					£15,000
New Belfast Community Arts Initiative T/A Community Arts Partnership		£958,437							£958,437
New Lodge Arts		£175,000							£175,000
Newtownabbey Arts & Cultural Network	£32,320								£32,320
North West Carnival Initiative				£159,078					£159,078
North West Cultural Partnership				£40,099					£40,099
North West Play Resource Centre (The Playhouse)				£1,400,992					£1,400,992
Northern Ireland Hospice		£12,204							£12,204
Northern Visions Ltd		£482,459							£482,459

Financial Year 2021-2026: Creative Workshop Facilities	Location								
Organisation Name	Antrim and Newtownabbey	Belfast	Causeway Coast and Glens	Derry and Strabane	Fermanagh and Omagh	Mid Ulster	Newry, Mourne and Down	Ards and North Down	Total
Oh Yeah Music Centre		£536,243							£536,243
Our Social Space Ltd		£3,552							£3,552
Patrician Youth Centre							£31,704		£31,704
Prime Cut Productions Ltd		£830,410							£830,410
Seacourt Print Workshop Limited								£453, 265	£453,265
St Columb's Hall Trust				£15,419					£15,419
Sticky Fingers Arts							£253,812		£253,812
Strand Arts Centre		£315,974							£315,974
Streetwise Community Circus Cic		£435,182							£435,182
The Black Box Trust		£212,452							£212,452
The Lyric Theatre (NI)		£6,755,383							£6,755,383
The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre)		£5,022,580							£5,022,580
The Nerve Centre				£309,135					£309,135
The Verbal Arts Centre (Northern Ireland) Limited				£1,126,389					£1,126,389
University of Atypical		£572,283							£572,283
Waterside Theatre Company Ltd				£436,591					£436,591
WheelWorks		£466,817							£466,817
Youth Action Northern Ireland		£218,199							£218,199
No. of organisations	1	32	1	14	1	3	3	1	
Grand Total	£32,320	£24,393,504	£9,143	£6,657,696	£25,210	£390,422	£541,636	£453, 265	£32,503,196