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Mr T Gaston MLA
Northern Ireland Assembly
Parliament Buildings
Stormont

28 July 2026
AQW49199/22-27

Mr T Gaston (North Antrim): To ask the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail any grants, funding awards or service contracts awarded by their Department, its agencies and arm's-length bodies since 1 January 2020 to organisations whose stated objectives include supporting asylum seekers, refugees, migrants, ethnic minorities, integration, anti-racism initiatives or community cohesion, broken down by (i) recipient organisation; (ii) amount awarded; (iii) funding programme; and (iv) financial year.

ANSWER

Due to the large volume of data involved this information has been made available in the Assembly Library.



Michelle O'Neill MLA
First Minister



Emma Little-Pengelly MLA
deputy First Minister

Funding from TEO for groups supporting asylum seekers, refugees, migrants, ethnic minorities, integration, anti-racism initiatives or community cohesion since January 2020.

Minority Ethnic Development Fund (MEDF)

The Minority Ethnic Development Fund (MEDF) has provided around £1.1million per annum to 28 voluntary and community organisations working with minority ethnic people and groups to promote good relations between people of different ethnic backgrounds.

Minority Ethnic Development Fund (MEDF) Organisation	Amount Awarded 2019/20	Amount Awarded 2020/21	Amount Awarded 2021/22	Amount Awarded 2022/23	Amount Awarded 2023/24	Amount Awarded 2024/25	Amount Awarded 2025/26	Amount Awarded 2026/27 (tbc subject to budget)
Tools for Solidarity	Nil	Nil	£2,400	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	<u>Nil</u>
Cruse Bereavement Support	Nil	Nil	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000
Refuge Language CIC	Nil	Nil	£9,800	£9,800	£9,800	£9,800	£9,800	£9,800
North Down YMCA	£74,943	£74,943	£84,652	£84,652	£84,652	£84,652	£84,652	<u>£84,652</u>
The Link Family and Community Centre	£9,900	Nil	£9,900	£9,999	£9,999	£9,999	£9,900	<u>£9,999</u>
Strabane Ethnic Community Association	£43,758	£42,358	£43,910	£43,910	£43,910	£43,910	£43,910	<u>£43,910</u>
Waterside Neighbourhood Partnership	£4,300	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
North Down Cricket Club	£9,750	£9750	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
First Steps Women's Centre	£9,991	Nil	£41,223	£41,223	£41,223	£41,223	£41,223	£41,223
Community Intercultural Programme (CIP)	£54,900	Nil	£54,900	£54,900	£54,900	£54,900	£54,900	<u>£54,900</u>
ArtsEkta	£70,000	Nil	£60,000	£70,000	£70,000	£70,000	£70,000	<u>£70,000</u>

Homeplus	£54,963	Nil	£45,000	£45,000	£45,000	£45,000	£45,000	<u>£45,000</u>
Northern Ireland Somali Association	£ 9,981	Nil	£29,482	£29,482	£29,482	£29,482	£29,482	£29,482
Cathedral Quarter Trust / Culture Night Belfast	£10,000	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	<u>Nil</u>
Polish Abroad	£9,680	Nil	£9,750	£9,750	£9,750	£9,750	£9,750	£9,750
Shankill Parish Caring Association: The Jethro Centre	£9,850	Nil	£22,209	£22,209	£22,209	£22,209	£22,209	£22,209
Windsor Women's Centre	£ 29,914	£29,914	£29,990	£29,990	£29,990	£29,990	£29,990	£29,990
Flourish NI	£29,185	£29,185	£44,904	£44,904	£44,904	£44,904	£44,904	£44,904
Irish FA Foundation	£28,500	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
NIACRO	Nil	Nil	£27,027	£27,027	£27,027	£27,027	£27,027	£27,027
Horn of Africa People's Aid NI (HAPANI)	£35,291	£35,291	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Armagh Roma Travelers Support/ Minority Ethnic Support Armagh	Nil	Nil	£44,795	£44,795	£44,795	£44,795	£44,795	£44,795
The Welcome Project	£44,464	£44,464	£44,970	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Bomoko NI	Nil	Nil	£44,992	£44,992	£44,992	£44,992	£44,992	£44,992
Strabane Ethnic Community Association	£42,358	£42,358	£43,910	£43,910	£43,910	£43,910	£43,910	£43,910
South Belfast Roundtable	£40,838	£40,838	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Chinese Welfare Association (CWA)	£54,500	£45,000	£60,000	£60,000	£60,000	£60,000	£60,000	£60,000
British Red Cross	£45,000	£45,000	£45,000	£45,000	£45,000	£45,000	£45,000	£45,000
Whiterock Children's Centre	£44,448	£44,448	£44,794	£44,794	£44,794	£44,794	£44,794	£44,794
Northern Ireland Alternatives	£44,950	£44,950	£44,950	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
NICRAS	£45,000	£45,000	£45,000	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Wah Hep Chinese Community Association	£45,000	£45,000	£45,000	£45,000	£45,000	£45,000	£45,000	£45,000
Association Bulgarian Culture and Education (ABCE)	£44,998	£44,998	£44,995	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Belfast Islamic Centre	£44,999	£44,999	£44,995	£44,995	£44,995	£44,995	£44,995	£44,995
Craigavon Travellers Support Committee	£45,000	£45,000	£44,791	£44,791	£44,791	£44,791	£44,791	£44,791
OECSG	£59,990	£59,990	£74,905	£74,905	£74,905	£74,905	£74,905	£74,905
Building Communities Resource Centre	£59,949	£59,949	£74,976	£74,976	£74,976	£74,976	£74,976	£74,976
Inter Ethnic Forum	£74,794	£74,794	£70,533	£70,533	£70,533	£70,533	£70,533	£70,533
STEP	£75,000	£75,000	£75,000	£75,000	£75,000	£75,000	£75,000	£75,000
Law Centre NI	Nil	Nil	£59,902	£56,368	£42,006	£54,292	£19,601	Nil

Crisis Fund

The British Red Cross is contracted to deliver the Crisis Fund which distributes small amounts of aid to support minority ethnic people, particularly those that are vulnerable to prevent destitution and homelessness.

Organisation	Amount Awarded 2019/20	Amount Awarded 2020/21	Amount Awarded 2021/22	Amount Awarded 2022/23	Amount Awarded 2023/24	Amount Awarded 2024/25	Amount Awarded 2025/26	Amount Awarded 2026/27
British Red Cross	£182,000	£182,000	£182,000	£182,000	£182,000	£182,000	£182,000	£182,000

Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) now UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS)

Funding, provided from Westminster, to support delivery of the VPRS locally was awarded to the organisations detailed in the table below:

Organisation	Amount Awarded 2024/25	Amount Awarded 2025/26	Amount Awarded 2026/27
Bryson Care*	£248,255	£78,706	£43,818
Barnardo's	*included in above	£40,439	£19,443
Extern	*included in above	£58,968	£20,136
<u>Law Centre NI**</u>	£10,000	£15,000	£20,000

* Funding was awarded to Bryson Care through a single Letter of Offer, with Bryson Care managing the distribution of funding to Barnardo's and Extern as delivery partners.

**Law Centre NI received Westminster-funded support for visa schemes, refugees and asylum seekers. This funding was awarded to the organisation to enable the provision of immigration and entitlement advice services against all cohorts.

Funding, provided from Westminster, to support delivery of the above Afghan Visa Schemes locally was awarded to the organisations detailed in the table below

<u>Organisation</u>	Amount Awarded 2024/25	Amount Awarded 2025/26	Amount Awarded 2026/27
Bryson Care	£1,146,362	£326,411	£237,515
Barnardo's	*included in above	£440,161	£366,389
Extern	*included in above	£440,319	£295,180
British Red Cross	Nil	£20,114	£7,059
<u>Law Centre NI**</u>	£50,000	£15,000	£15,000

* Funding was awarded to Bryson Care through a single Letter of Offer, with Bryson Care managing the distribution of funding to Barnardo's and Extern as delivery partners.

**Law Centre NI received Westminster-funded support for visa schemes, refugees and asylum seekers. This funding was awarded to the organisation to enable the provision of immigration and entitlement advice services against all cohorts.

Homes For Ukraine (HFU) Scheme

Funding, provided from Westminster, to support delivery of the HFU scheme locally was awarded to the organisations detailed in the table below:

<u>Organisation</u>	Amount Awarded 2023/24	Amount Awarded 2024/25	Amount Awarded 2025/26	Amount Awarded 2026/27
Bryson Care Consortium	Nil	£516,147	£59,161	£26,821
Barnardo's	Nil	*included in above	£131,030	£108,565
Extern	Nil	*included in above	£257,083	£241,116
Bryson Care Thank you payments	Nil	£139,000	£154,910	£185,490
South Tyrone Empowerment Programme (STEP)	Nil	£31,472	Nil	Nil
<u>Law Centre NI**</u>	£90,000.00	£50,000.00	£20,000.00	£15,000.00
Mid and East Antrim Borough Council	£35,160.07	Nil	Nil	Nil
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council	£15,854.70	Nil	Nil	Nil
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council	£26,207.52	Nil	Nil	Nil
Belfast City Council	£48,017.14	Nil	Nil	Nil
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council	£964.00	Nil	Nil	Nil

* Funding was awarded to Bryson Care through a single Letter of Offer, with Bryson Care managing the distribution of funding to Barnardo's and Extern as delivery partners.

**Law Centre NI received Westminster-funded support for visa schemes, refugees and asylum seekers. This funding was awarded to the organisation to enable the provision of immigration and entitlement advice services against all cohorts.

Refugee Integration Funding (RIF) Scheme

Funding, provided from Westminster, to support Refugee Integration locally was awarded to the organisations detailed in the table below:

Organisation	Amount Awarded 2024/25
Fermanagh and Omagh District Council	£23,081.00
Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council	£42,239.00
Derry City and Strabane District Council	£55,583.00
Ards and North Down Borough Council	£25,988.00
Newry Mourne and Down District Council	£27,969.00
Belfast City Council	£310,840.00
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	£46,995.00
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	£32,462.00
Mid and East Antrim Borough Council	£23,081.00
Mid Ulster District Council	£23,081.00
Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council	£27,573.00
British Red Cross	£29,993.19

Full Dispersal Asylum Seekers Scheme Funding

Funding, provided from Westminster, to support asylum dispersal locally was awarded to the organisations detailed in the table below

Organisation	Amount 2023/24	Amount 2024/25	Amount 2025/26
Fermanagh and Omagh District Council	NIL	£50,000.00	£16,302.00
Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council	NIL	£50,000.00	£84,638.00
Derry City and Strabane District Council	NIL	£50,000.00	£92,773.00
Ards and North Down Borough Council	NIL	£50,000.00	£27,040.00
Newry Mourne and Down District Council	NIL	£50,000.00	£26,684.00
Belfast City Council	NIL	£128,713.54	£593,903.00
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	NIL	£50,000.00	£68,693.00
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	NIL	£50,000.00	£44,983.00
Mid and East Antrim Borough Council	NIL	£50,000.00	£15,000.00
Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council	NIL	0	£19,230.00
Mid Ulster District Council	NIL	£50,000.00	£15,000.00
Law centre NI	£101,639.19	£175,563.15	£200,000.00

Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) Change Fund

The Change Fund operates in two strands: Local and Regional.

Under the Local Change Fund, all 11 Councils awarded funding to grassroots organisations to provide information and training in community-based settings on causes of violence against women and girls and what healthy relationships are. The Councils were also given Momentum funding to continue their awareness raising events and capacity building within their areas. Activity was spread across all areas of communities including youth groups, sports organisations, schools, businesses and the arts sector.

Local Change Fund

Organisation	Funding Stream	Amount Awarded	Funding Year
Mid Ulster District Council	Momentum	£ 3,000	2024-25
Nigerian Community Council	Local Change Fund, through Belfast City Council	£ 4,500	2025-26
Belfast City of Sanctuary	Local Change Fund, through Belfast City Council	£ 24,500	2025-26

Regional Change Fund

The Regional Change Fund is led by eight key regional community and voluntary sector organisations with the aim of raising awareness and equipping people to have safe and healthy relationships, strengthening the impact and reach of programmes being delivered across all of NI and driving society wide action so that everyone understands what VAWG is and knows how to prevent it.

Organisation	2024/25 (January to March 2025)	2025/26	2026/27 (up to end September 2026)
Barnardo's	£7,310	£141,267	£100,000

Communities in Transitions (CIT)

The Communities in Transition (CIT) project aims to support eight geographic areas where there has been a history of paramilitary activity and coercive control to transition into communities where paramilitary activity no longer plays a role. This project is designed to support ambitious initiatives that will build the capacity of individuals and groups to affect positive change for themselves and their communities. It funds local, ambitious projects to help these areas transition into thriving neighbourhood's where paramilitary influence no longer exists.

Funding through the Communities in Transition (CIT) programme is not directed towards projects with a primary focus on asylum seekers, refugees, or migrants. However, during programme delivery, a small number of funded interventions in response to incidents arising within designated CIT areas have taken place, providing support where required to address emerging issues and mitigate potential impacts, as follows: -

Organisation	Funding 2022/23	Funding 2023/24	Funding 2024/25
Northern Ireland Alternatives	£6,000.00	£5,000.00	£2,000.00

The District Council Good Relations Programme

The District Council Good Relations Programme (DCGRP) is a match funded good relations funding programme delivered jointly by The Executive Office (TEO) and District Councils. The key aims of the programme are to improve relations between and within District Council areas to support local solutions to local good relations issues. Each element of funded provision has one or more defined and measurable outcomes linked to the four key aims of T:BUC. As such, an element of community cohesion is present in all DCGRP delivery. Programmes are open and accessible to residents from all communities and of all ethnic backgrounds. It should be noted that while TEO provide strategic input to the programme and oversight of annual Good Relations Action Plans for all councils, decisions around specific project funding are a matter for individual Councils.

The table below details total funding allocated, broken down by council and by year: -

Council	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Antrim and Newtownabbey	£144,896.25	£144,896.25	£148,621.25	£121,783.35	£127,076.27	£205,262.50
Ards & North Down	£170,053.30	£170,053.50	£182,978.50	£120,128.36	£123,884.74	£190,240.12
Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon	£381,801.50	£381,801.50	£394,726.50	£302,355.00	£264,840.85	£349,051.11
Belfast City Council	£571,893.01	£571,893.27	£575,988.27	£401,537.28	£407,979.69	£692,700.00
Causeway Coast and Glens	£175,902.00	£174,452.51	£178,476.61	£110,236.83	£119,394.08	£180,268.36
Derry City and Strabane	£429,230.53	£427,791.42	£434,841.42	£268,729.50	£278,064.28	£362,564.29
Fermanagh & Omagh	£217,692.72	£217,692.72	£230,617.72	£152,877.14	£174,840.20	£204,348.31
Lisburn and Castlereagh	£125,958.11	£118,729.79	£118,729.79	£77,126.78	£87,974.34	£188,199.79
Mid & East Antrim	£273,154.31	£273,153.75	£273,153.75	£174,771.49	£190,899.85	£225,731.42
Mid Ulster	£310,398.22	£310,398.00	£323,323.00	£164,510.00	£225,108.60	£293,278.50
Newry Mourne & Down	£314,019.96	£312,144.96	£312,144.96	£195,436.83	£221,227.12	£309,623.62
Totals	£3,114,999.91	£3,103,007.67	£3,173,601.77	£2,089,492.56	£2,221,290.02	£3,201,268.02

Central Good Relations Fund (CGRF)

The Central Good Relations Fund supports constituted voluntary and community sector groups to deliver good relations projects where there is evidence of identified good relations need.

The aim of the Programme is to support the achievement of the Executive's strategic objectives relating to good relations.

Funding should be used for the delivery of projects which aim to address any of the following:

- where there is an identified good relations need and the aim is to work with those most in need of a good relations intervention within specific areas of impact;
- where there is, or potential for, heightened social unrest;
- where there has been a significant change in local demographics;
- where there has been an increase in racist/sectarian hate incidents; and
- where emerging issues within communities warrant a Good Relations intervention.

It should be noted that to be fundable under CGRF, projects need to demonstrate concrete Good Relations work at the heart of all activities, and this work needs to be proactive in building Good Relations rather than passively bringing people from different communities/backgrounds together.

Details of previously funded organisations can be found at:
<https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/articles/central-good-relations-fund>

Community Relations Council (CRC)

The Community Relations Council (CRC) provides support for organisations which are considered of strategic importance in promoting community relations work across the region. All funding awarded by CRC either delivers directly on, or is aligned with, the objectives of furthering community cohesion.

Recent funded activity has included:

- Community-led initiatives supporting cross-community dialogue and relationship-building;
- Programmes focused on good relations, reconciliation, and shared space development;
- Capacity-building support for local organisations working on integration and inclusion;
- Targeted projects addressing issues such as racism, sectarianism, and community tensions.

Detailed information on funded programmes and outcomes is published annually as part of CRC's Annual Report [CRC Annual Report and Accounts](#) which is available on the [CRC Website](#).

PeacePlus

PEACEPLUS is a cross-border funding Programme supported by the European Union, the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Government of Ireland, and the Northern Ireland administration. TEO's GRD branch is the accountable department for 2 investment areas:

IA1.1- Local Action Plans- 17 councils across the programme areas each deliver an action plan around the 3 themes of: Local community regeneration and transformation; Thriving and peaceful communities; and Building respect for all cultural identities.

IA1.3- Building positive relations- 15 organisations across the programme area are delivering projects which transcend local boundaries and have the potential to achieve significant peace and reconciliation across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland.

Further details of the awards made under IA1.1 and 1.3 can be found at: <https://www.seupb.eu/peaceplus/list-projects>

PEACE IV was a unique initiative of the European Union designed to support peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland. The programme focused on building positive relations promoting social and economic stability and addressing issues of division and intolerance within communities. TEO's GRD branch was the accountable department for 4 objectives under PEACE IV:

2.2- local authority-led action plan on children and young people.

3.2- local authority-led action plan on shared spaces projects

4.1- was the local authority-led action plans

4.2- Regional Level Projects- 21 projects were awarded funding to deliver regional level good relations projects

Further details of the awards made under objectives 2.2, 3.3, 4.1 and 4.2 can be found here: can be found at: [What was funded under the PEACE IV Programme?](#)
[| SEUPB](#)