

Arts Council of Northern Ireland

Board Members Declaration of Interests: 2026/27

Chair

Nora Douds

None

Brother-in-law previously served as a Board Member of the Lyric Theatre from April 2007 – July 2023, an organisation that receives annual grant funding from ACNI. I had no involvement in that role or in any related funding decisions.

Vice Chair

William Leathem

Chair of the Ulster Supported Employment Limited (USEL) NDPB within DfC 1/08/2019 – 31/07/2027
Project lead consultant for Ballinderry War Memorial Hall from 1/11/2025 – 30/06/2026
Project Manager for Ballinderry War Memorial Hall from 1/07/2026 – 30/6/2028

Project Manager for Ballinderry War Memorial Hall 1/06/2022 - 31/10/2025

Board Members

Paul Brolly

Board member, Golden Thread Gallery, Belfast

Board member, Belfast Marathon Ltd.

Staff member for BBC Northern Ireland, in a marketing capacity. I hold no journalistic influence.

Michael Cameron

My wife is an MLA and has been appointed as Committee Member, Committee for Communities and Committee Member, Committee for The Executive Office from 23/09/2025

Dee Crooks

Operational Manager with Newtownabbey Arts and Cultural Network

Joe Dougan

Board member, Belfast City Council Regional Music Board (from August 2023)

Board member, Arts & Business NI (from March 2024)

Employed by SD Events Management Ltd, Belsonic Ltd. and Limelight Belfast Ltd.

Paul Grocott

Sister-in-law employed by Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Limited

From 02/03/2026, Deputy Secretary for Digital and Security Shared Services in the Department of Finance, including overall – but not operational – responsibility for the services delivered to the Arts Council.

Ray Hall

Board member Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Northern Ireland Branch

Board Director of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (the parent body of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association NI Branch) (from March 2023)

Secretary of Moybrone Pipe Band (from 9 September 2023)

Margaret Henry

Board Member of thrive audience development (in receipt of ACNI core funding) (from June 2023)

Employed by the National Lottery Heritage Fund (from May 2021). I do not perceive any issues but want to flag as there may be projects seeking funding from the Heritage Fund that receive or have applied for ACNI core and/or project funding.

Chair of the Funders Forum for NI which ACNI is also represented on. I do not perceive an issue as this group is not constituted and does not seek funding (from August 2025)

Former CEO of thrive audience development (from January 2014 to April 2021)

Sean Kelly

Director of The Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival

Darren Milligan

Employed as Creative Programme Executive for North West Cultural Partnership (in receipt of ACNI Project Funding) (from 6 January 2023)

Director of New Gate Enterprises LTD (from 28 March 2023)

Former Trustee of Londonderry Bands Forum (from 1 September 2021 to 30 October 2025)

Pádraig Ó Duinnín

Board member of Lagan Legacy

Board member of An Droichead Ltd

Board member of Féile na Tána

Member of British Council NI Advisory Committee

Married to Arts Officer of An Droichead Ltd

Producer for Dumbworld (July 2025 to March 2026)

Gearóid Trimble

Member of the following boards/committees (not in receipt of ACNI funding): Intercomm (board member); Gaelscoil na bhFál (school governor); Creggan Local History Society (treasurer); Ring of Gullion AONB Partnership Board (board member); Pobal an Chaistil Tta (director); Foras Táin Bó Cuailgne (board member from 1 December 2025)

Research Associate with Ulster University

Employed by Foras na Gaeilge, the North/South Irish Language body and also an ALB of the Dept for Communities in NI, which currently funds some grant recipients that are funded by ACNI