

Arts Council of Northern Ireland

# Small Capital Grants Programme

## Application Guidance Notes

**Deadline for Applications:** 12 noon, Thursday 28 August  
2025

### Decisions: October 2025

Applications must be submitted on-line at [www.artscouncil-ni.org/funding](http://www.artscouncil-ni.org/funding)

**Please note** that all purchases and minor works must be completed by **Tuesday 31 March 2026**. If you are unable to meet these conditions, you should NOT apply to this scheme as the Arts Council will not meet any costs incurred beyond this period.



Department for  
**Communities**

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## Introduction

Thank you for your interest in the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's (the Arts Council) Small Capital Grants Programme.

These Guidance Notes give information on who is eligible to apply to the programme and how to submit an application. It also describes how your application will be assessed, how decisions are made and what you will be asked to do if you are awarded a grant.

These Guidance Notes and the relevant application form are available on our website at [Arts Council of Northern Ireland Small Capital Grants Programme \(opens in a new window\)](#).

## Getting Help With Your Application

These Guidance Notes and the relevant application form are available on our website at [Arts Council of Northern Ireland Small Capital Grants Programme \(opens in a new window\)](#).

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland is committed to offering clear and accessible application processes and programmes that are open to everyone. If you have any access needs and are thinking about making an application, we can help to make sure that you're supported during the application process.

We have a number of ways we can support you to make your application:

- Arts Officers can offer general guidance to applicants on making an application (in particular, see page 7 for details)
- Other accessibility support: The Arts Council of Northern Ireland can make information available in other formats tailored to individual requests for the application in other formats e.g. large print, braille, audio, Easy Read and British Sign Language

Please contact us at [artgrants@artscouncil-ni.org](mailto:artgrants@artscouncil-ni.org) if you need further assistance with your application including alternative language versions.

Further contact details for all our Artform staff can be found on the Arts Council Website [Arts Council of Northern Ireland Contact Us \(opens in a new window\)](#).

**The Arts Council of Northern Ireland welcomes applications from the widest possible range of individuals, representing all categories under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.**

## **Aims of the Small Capital Grants Programme**

The Arts Council has designed this programme to enable organisations to purchase equipment and/or carry out minor works to their premises which will provide opportunities to upgrade equipment and carry out necessary works to ensure they maintain a presence in the arts sector.

We want to support organisations across Northern Ireland to maintain their creative spaces addressing any issues that may hinder the work to take place. We want to ensure that organisations have the necessary equipment in place to welcome their staff, artists and audiences. We also want to support organisations in their delivery of the arts.

The scheme aims to provide grants which will help to:

- Maintain/improve the quality of artistic activities delivered
- Improve the accessibility of the arts
- improve the environment for the arts sector
- enhance or broaden the audience/participants' experience.

## **Is your project timetable suitable?**

You should only apply to this programme if you will be able to complete the procurement, purchase and delivery of your requested items of equipment from notification of award (anticipated October 2025) and at the latest **31 March 2026**. It is important that you consider delivery periods for your requested items of equipment, ie the time it takes between placing an order to receipt of equipment to ensure delivery can take place by 31 March 2026.

Similarly, if you are applying for minor works costs, all work must take place and be completed from notification of award and at the latest 31 March 2026.

Eligible expenditure can only be incurred within this timeframe. If you are unable to meet these conditions, you should **NOT** apply to this scheme as the Arts Council will not meet any costs incurred outside this period.

## **How Much Funding is Available?**

The maximum grant amount you can request is £25,000. Please keep in mind that the amount of money available is limited and demand for funds is likely to be extremely high. It is not usually possible to fund all applications which simply meet the criteria or to fund the entirety of any given request.

We will aim to distribute our funds as widely as possible and may take account in the assessment of your application of the level of support you have previously received or are currently receiving, as well as your organisation's management of any previous grants. In the event that request levels greatly exceed the available budget, those groups who have received the highest levels of capital funding over the previous 2 years may be a lower priority for awards in this year's round.

- **You should be realistic in your expectations and budgets** and bear in mind that the Council may choose to fund specific elements of your proposal rather than the full request.
- You may apply for multiple items of equipment<sup>1</sup> and/or minor works costs.
- You will need to provide at least two quotes for each requested item of equipment - more if the value of the item is above £5,000 (**see pages 10 and 11 below**).
- If you are requesting more than one of any given item of equipment, only one set of quotes is necessary. For example, if you request three identical desks which each cost £150, you only need to upload two quotes in relation to this; you do not have to upload two separate quotes for each of the three desks.
- For minor works applications, you will need to provide a schedule of work, together with at least two quotes for each element of the work (**see pages 11 & 12 below**), in addition to details of your lease.
- We will not pay VAT on any expenditure incurred by VAT registered organisations with the ability to reclaim VAT costs.
- Remember that the grant will be paid **retrospectively** on production of invoices/receipts.
- Once awarded, grants cannot be increased.

### **How Much Partnership Funding Do You Need?**

Only local authorities must provide partnership funding. The minimum partnership funding provided by such organisations is 50% in cash from non-Arts Council sources (in kind contributions will not be considered).

For all applicants, the assessment process may take into account any other funds you are able to bring to the project and this may influence the outcome of the assessment.

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<sup>1</sup> Please note, this does not mean that you can submit multiple applications. Only one application per organisation will be accepted.

# Eligibility

## Who Can Apply?

The Arts Council welcomes applications from the widest possible range of organisations and, in particular, from applicants whose projects benefit individuals categorised under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. In addition, in order to be eligible to apply to *this* programme, please note the following:

- You do not have to be primarily an arts organisation (for example, community groups may apply to the scheme), however, the purpose of the requested equipment and/or minor works must be clearly focussed on the arts.
- Local authorities are eligible to apply but they are a low priority.
- Registered charities and other fully constituted organisations which cannot distribute a profit are eligible to apply.
- Commercial organisations can only apply for support if the equipment and/or minor works is primarily for the benefit of the public rather than their own commercial interests.
- If your organisation has a limited membership, you must show that the equipment and/or minor works will benefit the wider public.
- Groups of organisations (consortia) working together to deliver specific projects may apply.

## Who Cannot Apply?

- Individuals or sole traders
- Broadcasters (excluding community service broadcasters)
- Central Government Departments
- Bands seeking musical instruments (the Arts Council has a separate Musical Instruments for Bands programme)
- Schools, Colleges and Universities
- Organisations who are in breach of the terms of previous ACNI grant awards.

## What You Can Apply For

You can apply for any equipment and / or minor works to help adapt your venue or working practice. This could be, but not limited to, the following:

- New equipment / structures to enhance accessibility/delivery
- Accessibility equipment and minor works
- Creation of safe spaces
- IT equipment to assist/improve arts delivery\*
- Software (pre-loaded operating systems and packages only)
- Works in relation to upgrading and maintaining existing systems
- Transport

## **What You Can Apply For (cont.)**

\* The following maximum contributions towards these particular items of IT equipment should be noted. Contributions above these limits will only be made in exceptional circumstances, where the applicant has presented a strong rationale justifying additional costs per item.

- Tablet Computers: £500
- Laptops/PCs: £1,200

## **What You Cannot Apply For**

- Second-hand equipment without a warranty / guarantee<sup>2</sup>
- Equipment service costs
- Subscription costs to include broadband
- Musical instruments
- Sheet music
- Mobile phones
- Consumables

Please note that this list is not exhaustive. If you have any queries about the eligibility of a proposal, you should contact and speak with the relevant art form officer before submitting an application.

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<sup>2</sup> For example, refurbished laptops from recognized suppliers which come with warranties would be eligible.

# How To Apply

## Help With Your Application

These Guidance Notes are available on request in large print format and other accessible formats if required, and also on the Arts Council's website at [Arts Council Small Capital Grants Programmes \(opens in a new window\)](#).

If you have any queries about the programme or need any help or advice completing the application, please contact the Arts Council. A list of staff can be found on our website at [Arts Council of Northern Ireland Contact Us \(opens in a new window\)](#).

**NB:** Officers' advice is restricted to general proposal eligibility and general advice on costs. Officers cannot give consideration to detailed budgets or comment on written proposals until a full application has been submitted. (Please note also, that it is only on submission of the full application that a final determination of eligibility can be made.)

## Making An Online Application

You must apply using our online system. We will not accept applications in hard copy or by email. You will find a link to the Small Capital Grants Programme on our website at [Arts Council Small Capital Grants Programmes \(opens in a new window\)](#).

- Online applications may be edited, saved and returned up to the closing date.
- You must submit all mandatory enclosures associated with the application at the same time as your application, i.e. they must be uploaded to your online application prior to its submission. These enclosures are listed on the attachments page within the online application and are detailed below. **Please note, you will not be given additional time to submit any missing enclosures once the programme deadline has passed.**
- Please ensure that you leave sufficient time to upload all documents to the system as there can be long delays as the closing deadline approaches and the system will shut down at **12noon precisely** on the closing date, **Thursday 28 August 2025**. If your complete application is not **fully** uploaded when the system closes, your application will not be accepted.
- If you submit your application by the closing deadline, you will receive an automated email advising that your application has been successfully submitted to the system. **If you do not receive this email, your application has not been submitted.**

Please remember that it is your responsibility to ensure that we receive the application form and uploaded enclosures by the closing time and date.

## Mandatory Enclosures

These are the documents which you must provide in conjunction with your application. Some of these must be uploaded to your online application via the attachments page; others must be uploaded to the Government Funding Database (GFD - see notes below).

You must upload the following mandatory enclosures to your Small Capital Grants Programme application before submission. **Read on** for information on the additional documents that you must upload to the GFD.

- A completed Equipment / Minor Works Request List pro forma (available on the programme webpage) listing each item you wish to purchase and/or minor works to be completed, detailing quotes from individual suppliers and prices. You must also indicate your VAT status on this form.
- **2 or more quotes or tenders** for each item of equipment, depending on cost (**see pages 10 and 11 below**).
- **IF** you are requesting a highly specialized item of equipment for which there is only one supplier, you must upload a statement explaining why this is the case.
- **IF** applying for minor works costs, provide a schedule of the work to be undertaken, i.e. a list of work required to complete a project.
- **IF** applying for minor works costs, **two or more quotes or tenders** for each element of work to be undertaken, depending on cost (**see pages 11 & 12 below**).
- **IF** applying for minor works costs, details of the length of lease your organisation holds on the building to be refurbished. In deciding whether or not to award a grant, the Council will consider the level of investment against the number of years left on the lease and if any value will accrue directly to the landlord at the end of the lease.
- Management Accounts for the period up to 31 March 2025 (**if** the accounts you have uploaded to the Government Funding Database are not for 2024/25 – see additional notes below).
- Detailed I&E budget for your whole organization for the 2025/26 financial year - this must cover the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026
- Detailed description of your organisation's programme of planned arts activities for 2025/26 - this must cover the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026. Only applicants who are not 2025/26 AFP clients must submit this.

Please keep in mind the following important points:

- You must upload **all** the necessary enclosures prior to submitting your online application. **If any enclosures are missing, your application will be ineligible.**
- All mandatory enclosures must be in **Word, Excel or pdf format**. We cannot accept documents in other formats.
- The total size of all your uploaded documents cannot exceed **25 Mb**.
- If you upload an enclosure in a format which we do not accept or which is corrupted or which we cannot open, the enclosure will be considered missing, and your application will be ineligible.
- Do not compress files into one zip file. Files must be uploaded as individual documents.

- **All data must be PC compatible.** If non-PC compatible data is supplied, your application will not be assessed. For example, if using a MAC, it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that any enclosures uploaded to the online application are PC compatible.
- The submission of weblinks or website addresses in lieu of enclosure documents **or quotes** is not acceptable and will result in your application being made ineligible.
- Registering on the Government Funders Database may take up to 5 days.

**Read on** for information on the additional documents that you must upload to the GFD and for further detailed guidance on mandatory enclosures.

## Government Funding Database

As part of Government's Reducing Bureaucracy programme, you are required to upload a number of master documents to the Government Funding Database (GFD). Many organisations in receipt of ACNI funds are already registered with this database; others will be required to register prior to the application being assessed. Once uploaded, these documents will exist for all applications you make to any Government department and you will not be required to submit them with individual applications, including future applications to the Arts Council.

**If you are based in Northern Ireland**, the following documents **MUST** be uploaded to the Government Funding Database at [Government Funding Database \(opens in a new window\)](#)

- Constitution and/or Memorandum and Articles of Association
- Most recent set of Audited/Certified/adopted accounts.
- Organisation Chart
- List of office bearers
- Rental Agreement/Lease/Evidence of ownership

**If you are based outside Northern Ireland**, you **MUST** upload the 5 documents listed above **AND** all the mandatory enclosures listed on pages 10-13 at the time of submitting your online application.

If you are not currently on the Database, you will be required to register at the Government Funding Database at [Government Funding Database \(opens in a new window\)](#)

Please note that if you are registering on the GFD site for the first time, it may take a number of days for your account to be activated. **It is your responsibility** to ensure that you initiate the registration process in sufficient time prior to the programme submission deadline to ensure that you are able to upload the necessary GFD documents to the site. If your organisation is not registered on the GFD or **ALL** the necessary documents are not uploaded to the site by the programme deadline, your application will be ineligible.

Instructions for uploading documents to the Government Funding Database are available for download from the Arts Council's website. **Please note that the GFD is not an Arts Council of Northern Ireland website. If you have any difficulties with the site (e.g. you cannot remember the password or login ID for your account), you must contact the website's administrator via the link provided by the website.**

## Detailed Guidance on Mandatory Enclosures

Further information on all mandatory enclosures is detailed below. If you have any queries about any of the documents, please contact us. A list of staff can be found on our website at [Arts Council of Northern Ireland Contact Us \(opens in a new window\)](#).

Mandatory Enclosure	Upload to	Guidance on Enclosure
<b>Equipment / Minor Works Request List Pro Forma</b>	Online Application	<p>Available for download on the programme webpage, you must complete this, listing each item you wish to purchase and / or minor works to be completed, detailing individual prices.</p> <p><b>You must use and complete the excel pro forma provided.</b> Do not amend the format of the sheet or add new columns – though you may add new rows. <b>If you do not provide the pro forma or if you provide the information in another format, your enclosure will not be accepted, and your application will be ineligible.</b></p> <p><b>Important Note: VAT</b></p> <p>You must state on the pro forma whether your organization is registered for VAT and if it has the ability to reclaim VAT costs.</p> <p><b>Please note - If this is not completed the list will not be accepted.</b></p>
<b>Quotes for each Item of Equipment</b>	Online Application	<p>The number of quotes you must provide depends on the cost of the equipment as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) up to £5,000 in value (excluding VAT): A minimum of two quotes or evidence of a price check with at least two contractors/suppliers to ensure value for money has been achieved. Price checks and/or quotes should be documented and retained on file for verification purposes.</li> <li>(ii) between £5,000 and £30,000 in value (excluding VAT): The organisation must seek a minimum of two tenders for supplies and services between £5,000 and £30,000 in value (excluding VAT).</li> <li>(iii) £30,000 to EU Thresholds. The organisation must refer to the Arts Council for further discussion.</li> </ul> <p>The Arts Council of Northern Ireland reserves the rights to examine all paperwork to verify compliance with this condition.</p> <p><b>If you are requesting a highly specialized item of equipment for which there is only one supplier, you must upload a statement explaining why this is the case.</b></p>

Mandatory Enclosure	Upload to	Guidance on Enclosure
		<p><b>Quotes do not require delivery dates. However, in the event that you receive an award, all equipment must be purchased and delivered by 31 March 2026 in order to be an eligible grant cost. Should you receive an award, the Arts Council will not cover any costs incurred either before the date of a letter of offer or after 31 March 2026.</b></p> <p><b>Acceptable Quotes:</b> Scans of original documents; email quotes; screen captures from online retailer sites.</p> <p><b>Unacceptable Quotes:</b> Weblinks or website addresses in lieu of quotes <b>are not acceptable</b> and will result in your application being made ineligible. Please note that illegible quotations will not be accepted.</p> <p><b>IMPORTANT NOTE:</b> If any submitted quotation is found to be fraudulent in any regard, your application will be made ineligible. It is the responsibility of all applicants to source reputable suppliers.</p>
<b>Schedule of Work to be Undertaken</b>	Online Application	<p><b>IF you are applying for minor works costs</b>, provide a schedule of work, i.e. a document that lists the required minor works needed to complete your project and the timescale for commencement/completion of each.</p>
<b>Quotes for each Element of Minor Work</b>	Online Application	<p><b>IF you are applying for minor works costs</b>, the number of quotes you must provide depends on the cost of minor works, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) up to £5,000 in value (excluding VAT): A minimum of two quotes or evidence of a price check with at least two contractors/suppliers to ensure value for money has been achieved. Price checks and/or quotes should be documented and retained on file for verification purposes.</li> <li>(ii) between £5,000 and £30,000 in value (excluding VAT): The organisation must seek a minimum of two tenders for supplies and services between £5,000 and £30,000 in value (excluding VAT).</li> <li>(iii) £30,000 to EU Thresholds. The organisation must refer to the Arts Council for further discussion.</li> </ul> <p>The Arts Council of Northern Ireland reserves the rights to examine all paperwork to verify compliance with this condition.</p> <p><b>In the event that you receive an award, all minor works must take place and be completed by 31 March 2026 in order to be an eligible</b></p>

Mandatory Enclosure	Upload to	Guidance on Enclosure
		<p><b>grant cost. Should you receive an award, the Arts Council will not cover any costs incurred either before the date of a letter of offer or after 31 March 2026.</b></p> <p><b>IMPORTANT NOTE:</b> If any submitted quotation is found to be fraudulent in any regard, your application will be made ineligible. It is the responsibility of all applicants to source reputable suppliers.</p>
<b>Lease Statement</b>	Online Application	<p><b>IF you are applying for minor works costs,</b> the lease statement should indicate the length of lease your organisation holds on the building to be refurbished and should highlight any issues that we should be aware of regarding the lease or the building, e.g. disagreements / ongoing legal issues. Please note that you are also required to upload a copy of your actual lease to the Government Funding Database.</p> <p>In deciding whether or not to award a grant, the Council will consider the level of investment against the number of years left on the lease and if any value will accrue directly to the landlord at the end of the lease.</p> <p><b>NB:</b> If your organisation owns its own premises, it should indicate this in the relevant question on the application form.</p>
<b>Management Accounts up to the period 31 March 2025</b>	Online Application	<p>Applicants are required to upload a copy of their organisation's most recent Audited/Certified Accounts to the Government Funding Database. If the accounts uploaded to the GFD are not for the year 2024/25 (i.e. if your most recent audited accounts are for the 2023/24 financial year), we require a set of management accounts covering the intervening period, up to 31 March 2025. We require these accounts to assess the overall financial wellbeing of your organisation and to judge whether there is a need for Arts Council funding.</p>
<b>Detailed I&amp;E budget for your whole organisation</b>	Online Application	<p>This is a budget for your entire organisation for the 2025/26 financial year - <b>this must cover the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.</b></p>
<b>Detailed description of 2025/26 arts programme</b>	Online Application	<p><b>This is a mandatory enclosure for all applicants who are <u>not</u> ACNI 2025/26 AFP clients - this must cover the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.</b></p> <p>You should describe in detail the programme of arts activities you plan to deliver including the following where possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Locations and dates of all events within the programme</li> </ul>

<b>Mandatory Enclosure</b>	<b>Upload to</b>	<b>Guidance on Enclosure</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Names of artists, tutors, facilitators (if known) for each event or project OR details of the process you intend to use to select the artists.</li> <li>Projected participation in each event or project – numbers and age ranges – whether they will actively participate or will be an audience for a final presentation.</li> <li>For organisations whose programme includes the production of artistic material (journals, magazines, books, film, CD, or other media) a list of titles with print run and projected sales. Such organisations should also document promotional events associated with these materials (launches, readings, viewings, etc).</li> <li>Name of Project Manager for each major element, stating their experience of managing/delivering arts activities</li> </ul>
<b>Constitution and/or Memorandum and Articles of Association</b>	GFD	Please note: The name of your organisation as given in your constitution document should be the same name as that given in the application, and on your organisation's bank account, details of which we will request if you receive an award.
<b>Most recent set of Audited/Certified Accounts</b>	GFD	Please note: if these accounts are not for 2024/25, i.e. up to the period 31 March 2025, you must upload a set of management accounts with your application.
<b>Organisation Chart</b>	GFD	This is a diagram showing us the structure of your organisation, in terms of staff, board and committees.
<b>List of Office Bearers</b>	GFD	A list of <u>all</u> the office bearers on your board and sub-committees (if relevant), e.g. Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Chair of the Finance Committee etc.
<b>Rental Agreement / Lease / Evidence of Ownership</b>	GFD	<p>These documents are in relation to the premises from which your organisation operates.</p> <p>If your organisation does not have a rental agreement or lease in place, for example because it owns the premise, please provide a statement confirming this.</p>

<b>Non-Mandatory Enclosure</b>	<b>Upload to</b>	<b>Guidance on Enclosure</b>
<b>Copies of LOOs from Other Funders</b>	Online Application	<b>IF</b> you have any letters from sponsors or other funders which will contribute costs towards your proposed application, you should include them with your application as demonstration of support.

## After You Submit Your Application

- The Arts Council will acknowledge receipt of the application form.
- The Arts Council will undertake an eligibility check on your application. In the event of missing information, your application will be deemed as ineligible and will not proceed to assessment. If ineligible, the Arts Council will issue an email advising reasons for ineligibility.
- During the eligibility checking process, the Arts Council will publish a monitoring form to your application account and issue an email notification advising of same. Completion of the monitoring form is not mandatory and will not affect the eligibility and/or assessment of your application. **However**, we would strongly encourage all applicants to complete and submit the monitoring form as monitoring can assist us to deliver better public services and continuous improvements.
- Eligible applications will be assessed by an Arts Development Officer or Head of Artform Team.
- Assessments will be subject to a moderation process.
- The Arts Council will contact you with the final decision by letter by email. If rejected, the Arts Council will provide you with detailed reasons for the rejection.

# How We Will Make Our Decision

## Assessment Criteria

We will assess your project against the following criteria:

**Criterion 1:** Quality of Arts Activities

**Criterion 2:** Public Benefit

**Criterion 3:** Track Record

**Criterion 4:** Financial viability and quality of management

It is very important that you think carefully about how your project satisfies these criteria and use the application form to demonstrate this to us. Your project must meet all the programme criteria.

**Criterion 1 – Quality of Arts Activities:** You should detail how the equipment and/or minor works request will enhance the quality of your arts activity.

**Criterion 2 - Public Benefit:** You should detail how the equipment and/or minor works will benefit your audiences/participants/artists.

**Criterion 3 – Track Record:** You should detail what your organization does and its track record working in the publicly funded arts and cultural sector.

**Criterion 4 - Financial Viability and Quality of Management:** This will be assessed using the financial information and quotes you provide with the application. If you are a previous ACNI grant recipient, we may also use our knowledge of your organisation's management of previous Arts Council grants, including from outcomes of verification visits.

## How Decisions Are Made

All applications will be assessed by an Arts Development Officer against the criteria as listed above, taking into account the programme's aims and priorities. Officer recommendations are then subject to a moderation process. Depending on the level of award, final decisions will be made by Grants Committee or Arts Council Board.

## Is The Arts Council Decision Final?

There is a review procedure, which is available on the web site for any unsuccessful applicants.

## If You Receive an Award

### Letter of Offer

Following the decision, successful applicants will be issued with a contract outlining the conditions attached to the award and the specific purposes for which the award can be used.

- You will not be able to incur project expenditure until you have met certain conditions of grant and received your letter of offer from the Arts Council. You should take this into account when planning your project.
- It is important that you read the letter of offer and enclosed conditions carefully before signing and returning it. The letter of offer will set out what you may spend the grant on and by what date the project must be completed.
- If there are any changes to your project from the original application, the Arts Council must be informed immediately in writing **before any project expenditure is incurred**. If you don't tell us about changes you may have to repay the award, and this will affect decisions on any future applications you might make.

### How Payments Will Be Made

All payments will be made retrospectively against invoices or proof of expenditure. Payments will be made by BACS transfer only. You will need to complete and return the BACS form issued with your letter of offer.

### Procurement of Goods and Services

Applicants must seek the best value for money in relation to all proposed equipment purchases and minor works: best value for money is defined as the most advantageous combination of cost, quality and sustainability to meet your requirements.

Successful applicants must ensure that any purchases made with grant funds are in compliance with the guidance on procurement as stated in their Letter of Offer and as reproduced on pages 10 and 11 above.

Applicants must also maintain a clear audit trail of robust decision-making and retain all appropriate procurement documentation. The Arts Council will reserve the right to inspect this documentation at any point, and it will be specifically requested should your project be selected for a Verification Visit.

### Post Project Monitoring

- At the end of the project, you will have to submit an End of Project Report on a pre-supplied form. On this form you will have to give details of the final income and expenditure for the project.

## Post Project Monitoring (cont.)

- At a set date following project completion, you will be required to complete a survey reflecting how and to what extent the new equipment/minor works has impacted on the provision of arts services within your organisation.
- **Verification Visits** - Your project may also be subject to a verification visit by ACNI staff to ensure that the project grant has been spent as agreed in your letter of offer and that all processes (e.g. procurement, processing of payments within your organisation) related to project delivery comply with Letter of Offer conditions and your own stated financial procedures. It is therefore important that you retain all the project documentation which evidence this.

The Arts Council will retain a financial interest in the equipment purchased for a period of between 5 and 10 years, dependant on the type of equipment purchased. **You will not be able to dispose of any equipment within that time period, which will be stated in your letter of offer, without the Council's approval.**

## Children / Young People / Adults at Risk

You must complete the Access NI section of the online application form. If you do not complete the Access NI section, your application form will be deemed ineligible.

It is a requirement of ACNI funding that any organisation which comes into contact with children, young people and adults at risk, either directly through its programmes or indirectly through its services, must agree to a Safeguarding Commitment which must have been formally approved by your organisation.

Organisations that work with children, young people and adults at risk need to ensure that their safeguarding systems and procedures adhere to best practice. Please see the information below to consider in relation to your own organisation's procedures and note that you must agree the safeguarding commitment statement as part of your application form.

If your safeguarding policy and procedures are older than 3 years, please review and update them to ensure your policy and procedures are in line with best practice and legislation relating to protection issues. If you are successful in obtaining a grant, the Arts Council may, as part of its monitoring processes, ask to see these documents during the incoming year.

In respect of collaborative proposals in which multiple organisations are working together to deliver a project and have applied on that basis, the Lead Applicants are legally responsible for ensuring that the correct Safeguarding Systems and Processes are in place and must be registered with Access NI or Registered with an Umbrella Body in order to obtain Access NI checks for posts/roles that are in regulated activity. If your organisation is not registered in either case above, you **MUST** provide a statement detailing why this is the case.

ACNI would strongly advise that you contact Access NI or Volunteer Now to discuss why you believe you do not require Registration to obtain Access NI checks in relation to your proposed project.

### **Equality of Opportunity**

It is a requirement of our funding that your organisation commits to equality of opportunity and good relations duty.

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland has a statutory duty under the Northern Ireland Act 1998, in carrying out its functions to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between all Section 75 groups and you will note that you must agree an Equality of Opportunity and Good Relations policy statement as part of your application form.

## Other Information

### Openness and Accountability

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 any information held by us (which will include your application) is potentially accessible by the public.

Information supplied by you will be held in manual/electronic files and on a computer-based grants management system. Reports from the information you supply and from comments made on your application by external assessors and staff members are likely to be held on both manual and computer-based systems. The information you supply will be made available to those assessing any other grant applications you make.

By submitting your application, you waive any right to raise any type of proceedings against the Arts Council of Northern Ireland as a consequence of, or in contemplation of, any disclosure of the contents of your application in response to an information request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

### Data Protection

Data held on our grants management system is used for all of the following purposes: statistical reporting, application assessing, accounting purposes and for contacting you. For full details of how the Arts Council of Northern Ireland uses personal data please refer to our Privacy Policy available on our website [www.artscouncil-ni.org/](http://www.artscouncil-ni.org/)

### Email Notifications

The online application system has been tested and is sending out relevant notifications. We are, however, aware that some applicants to online grants programmes may experience issues such as the account holder not receiving links to reset passwords, not receiving notifications of when applications are edited and saved, nor when applications have been submitted. These issues relate to those account holders with email addresses from the following email providers – btinternet, yahoo and virgin – and customised email addresses.

The potential issues lie with those email providers and are beyond the control of the Arts Council. If encountered, they need to be addressed by the relevant email provider.

Should you be affected by a problem which cannot be resolved with an email provider, we would strongly recommend that accounts are set up using Gmail or Outlook email addresses. Where applicants may have previous accounts with other email addresses, we will be able to transfer historical information to new accounts if required.

**In addition, to avoid the blocking of any application-related emails or information, you should ensure that the addresses [mail@grantapplication.com](mailto:mail@grantapplication.com) and [mailuk@grantapplication.com](mailto:mailuk@grantapplication.com) will not be blocked by your email or firewall programmes.**

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