

ARTS COUNCIL OF NORTHERN IRELAND

NATIONAL LOTTERY FUND

ANNUAL REPORT

2000/01

INTRODUCTION

During the year under review the Arts Council continued to implement the objectives and actions detailed in its *Strategy for the Distribution of National Lottery Arts Funding 1999-2002*. Discussions took place with the sector on the detail and development of a number of existing and new programmes with the aim of best meeting the needs of the arts community.

Discussions have also taken place with other Lottery Distributors to implement an Awards for All programme in Northern Ireland to provide grants of between £500 and £5,000 to small organisations.

A moratorium was in place throughout the year on applications for new buildings while the Council re-designed the programme and discussed its overall priorities for the capital infrastructure. The programme will be re-launched early in the next financial year and funds unspent under this programme during the year will be carried forward into the next financial year. The Council continued to fund minor refurbishment projects as well as equipment purchase. Three feasibility studies into the development of the infrastructure around Northern Ireland also received funding totalling £54,603.

As a result of the moratorium the number of new grants made during the year fell to 67 totalling £1,741,845. An additional 4 grants totalling £26,764.04 were made to 3 Colleges under the Interim Funding Scheme for Northern Irish dance/drama students representing the final instalments of 3-year undertakings made in previous years.

The *New Work* programme continued its success in attracting a large number of applications and under this programme the Council made 25 awards for new work in all art forms. Twenty awards were made under the *Access* programme which is aimed at supporting arts projects which take place in a community context.

GRANTS AWARDED 1 APRIL 2000 – 31 MARCH 2001 £1,768,609

During the year 2000/01, 106 applications were received applying for £4,281,868. By the end of the year 67 new and 4 supplemental awards had been made, receiving a total of £1,768,609.

NEW WORK (25)

		£
Creggan Hall Management Committee	Newry & Mourne	14,880
Limavady Borough Council	Limavady	15,500
Ridiculusmus Theatre Company	Belfast	11,475
Glass Ceiling Theatreworks	Belfast	2,800
Mater Hospital Trust	Belfast	129,723
Seacourt Printworkshop	North Down	8,328
Loughshore Traditions Group	Magherafelt	13,159
Belfast Festival at Queen's	Belfast	86,500
North Face Theatre Company	Carrickfergus	3,240
North Face Theatre Company	Carrickfergus	18,788
NI 2000	Castlereagh	19,750
Prime Cut Productions Ltd	Belfast	38,200
Tinderbox Theatre Company	Belfast	57,692
Classical Music Society	Derry	5,625
Grassy Knoll Productions	Belfast	30,205
Kabosh Productions Ltd	Belfast	23,768
Ormeau Baths Gallery	Belfast	15,000
Music Network	Dublin	1,800
JustUs Theatre Company	Belfast	10,000
Community Theatre Association of Belfast	Belfast	30,000
Sonorities	Belfast	12,750
Young at Art Ltd	Belfast	6,425
Replay Productions	Belfast	19,540
DubbelJoint Theatre Co Ltd	Belfast	30,500
Lyric Players' Theatre	Belfast	17,453

ACCESS (20)

Community Network Portadown	Craigavon	9,831
Ardoyne Youth Club	Belfast	24,721
Ballydonaghy Pipe Band	Antrim	5,735
Cookstown District Council	Cookstown	12,056
The Educational Shakespeare Co	Belfast	9,412
Community Arts Forum	Belfast	7,416
The Playhouse	Derry	23,760
Gasyard Development Trust	Derry	25,000
The Women's Centre	Derry	17,500
Young at Art Ltd	Belfast	52,352
Spanner in the Works Theatre Co	Belfast	20,880
South Belfast Partnership Board	Belfast	23,350
Feeny Community Association Ltd	Limavady	630
Camphill Community Mourne Grange	Newry & Mourne	15,300
Fis na Milaoise Teo	Dublin	75,000
The Cathedral quarter Arts Festival	Belfast	55,000
JustUs Theatre Co	Belfast	61,637
Crumlin Development Association	Antrim	14,062
The Cedar Foundation	Belfast	75,000
Upper Springfield Development Trust	Belfast	74,270

BUILDING (2)

Glens Community Centre Group Ltd	Moyle	80,000
Bangor & North Down Camera Club	North Down	9,981

EQUIPMENT (8)

Doire Calgach Singers	Derry	2,883
Bart Players	Belfast	11,780
Clogher & District Cultural Development	Craigavon	3,964
Irish Association of Change Ringers	Ards	19,986
The Armagh Rhymers Workers Co-Operative	Armagh	15,266
Northern Visions	Belfast	25,584
Belfast Theatre Co	Belfast	4,990
Belfast Exposed Community	Belfast	26,397

FEASIBILITY STUDY (3)

Conradh na Gaeilge	Derry	9,987
Crescent Arts Centre	Belfast	8,500
Old Museum Arts Centre	Belfast	8,812

FILM PRODUCTION (6)

Y2K Film Productions Ltd	London	120,000
New Moon Pictures Ltd	Belfast	18,525
Perfect Cousins Productions	Derry	35,000
Green Park Films Ltd	Belfast	12,000
Chistera Productions	Belfast	35,000
Asylum Pictures	Edinburgh	50,000

FILM DEVELOPMENT (2)

McMorrow Films Ltd	Belfast	10,000
Lagan Pictures	Ballymena	6,000

SHORT FILM DISTRIBUTION (1)

Qubics Productions	Belfast	1,177
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INTERIM FUNDING SCHEME (4)

Royal Academy of Dramatic Art	London	3,500
London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art	London	2,580
The Guildford School of Acting (2)	London	20,684

BREAKDOWN OF AWARDS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA 2000/01

Antrim	2	1,979
Ards	1	19,986
Armagh	1	15,266
Ballymena	1	6,000
Belfast	38	1,108,584
Carrickfergus	2	22,028
Cookstown	1	12,056
Craigavon	2	13,795
Derry	7	119,755
Lmavady	2	16,130
Magherafelt	1	13,159
Moyle	1	80,000
Newry & Mourne	2	30,180
North down	2	18,309
Other	4	*273,564
TOTAL	67	1,768,609

*Includes supplemental awards under Interim Funding Scheme - £26,764

BREAKDOWN OF AWARDS BY ART FORM 2000/01

Cross-Art form	7	276,123
Community Arts	13	311,392
Drama	18	*446,326
Film	11	388,286
Music	8	77,238
Traditional Arts	2	19,230
Visual Arts	8	250,014
	67	1,768,609

*Includes supplemental awards under Interim Funding Scheme - £26,764

BREAKDOWN OF AWARDS BY APPLICATON TYPE 2000/01

Access	20	602,912
Building	2	89,981
Interim Funding Scheme	*-	26,764
Equipment	8	110,850
Feasibility	3	27,299
Film	9	287,702
New Work	25	623,101
	67	1,768,609

*Supplemental awards

TOTAL AWARDS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA 1995 – 2001

	Total Number of Awards	Total Value of Awards £	Population	Per Capita Expenditure £
Antrim	11	172,081	48,500	3.55
Ards	21	305,229	66,700	4.58
Armagh	20	3,912,521	52,500	74.52
Ballymena	12	2,146,435	57,500	37.33
Ballymoney	3	36,134	24,600	1.47
Banbridge	5	48,834	37,300	1.31
Belfast	240	10,645,864	296,700	35.88
Carrickfergus	5	113,626	34,900	3.26
Castlereagh	13	660,103	63,400	10.41
Coleraine	15	405,816	54,100	7.50
Cookstown	10	1,197,202	31,300	38.25
Craigavon	18	1,208,945	78,100	15.48
Derry	51	5,746,492	102,800	55.90
Down	14	422,123	60,700	6.95
Dungannon	13	213,766	46,800	4.57
Fermanagh	30	1,621,164	54,700	29.64
Larne	3	67,169	30,000	2.24
Limavady	3	34,847	30,900	1.13
Lisburn	7	1,385,006	106,000	13.07
Magherafelt	8	120,423	37,000	3.25
Moyle	7	300,775	14,800	20.32
Newry & Mourne	20	774,275	84,100	9.21
Newtownabbey	3	56,400	78,600	0.72
North Down	21	379,757	74,000	5.13
Omagh	9	4,078,462	46,900	86.96
Strabane	10	138,682	36,100	3.84
Other	40	2,326,262		
	612	38,518,394	1,649,000	

TOTAL AWARDS BY ART FORM 1995 – 2001

Art Form	Total Number of Awards	Total Value of Awards £
Cross Art Form	88	17,305,506
Community Arts	51	1,999,095
Craft	5	79,574
Dance	11	487,641
Drama	91	6,625,363
Film	69	3,815,714
Literature	13	1,326,833
Music	169	3,561,152
Opera	9	479,040
Traditional Arts	17	198,956
Visual Arts	89	2,639,519
	612	38,518,394

DIRECTIONS

Statement of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's performance in complying with Policy and Financial Directions issued under section 26 of the National Lottery etc. Act 1993 (as amended by the National Lottery act 1998).

POLICY DIRECTIONS

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland shall take into account the following matters in determining the persons to whom, the purposes for which and the conditions subject to which it distributes money under section 25 (1):

- A. *The need to ensure that money is distributed under section 25(1) for projects which promote the public good or charitable purposes and which are not intended primarily for private gain:***

“Projects must be for the public good” is one of the published criteria which are used to assess each application. Every successful applicant demonstrated the benefit to the community which would result from their projects. This might have been substantial community use or in the case of a commercial organisation that the project would promote the public good rather than its own restricted commercial interests.

- B *the need to ensure that it considers applications which relate to the complete range of activities falling with section 22(3)(a) and in respect of which it has power to distribute money, taking into account:***

- (i) *its assessment of the needs of the arts and its priorities for the time being for addressing them;***
- (ii) *the need to ensure that all parts of Northern Ireland have access to funding;***
- (iii) *the scope for reducing economic and social deprivation at the same time as creating benefits for the arts;***

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland carefully monitors all applications on both an art form and geographic basis. Applications have been received for all art forms – music, drama, visual art, dance, opera and film – as well as cross-art form activities. “To seek equitable distribution of funds taking into account the demand for arts provisions in areas or sections currently under-represented” is one of the 8 key published strategies which are common to all funding programmes and which influence all areas of operation and decision making. At the beginning of the year the Council set targets for addressing both artform and geographic under-representation.

It is disappointing that the targets set for the year in both of the above areas have not been met (with the exception of that set for Limavady). However, 17 of the 26 district council areas did receive Lottery awards. Due to changes in staffing the Lottery Department did not undertake any specific roadshows or promotional events within the year, although staff did continue to respond to invitations to seminars and conferences to promote generally the availability of grants.

Projects which promote under-represented geographic areas:

Area	Target	Achievement
Magherafelt	2% of total awards	1.5% (1 award)
Limavady	2% of total awards	3% (2 awards)
Banbridge	2% of total awards	0%
Newtownabbey	4% of total awards	0%

Projects which promote under-represented artform areas:

Area	Target	Achievement
Literature	6 awards	0
Dance	4 awards	0
Traditional Arts	8 awards	3

At the end of 1999/00 it was predicted that Literature applications would increase with the advent of revised New Work guidelines. Although work commenced on the revised guidelines they were not issued during the year. The New Work guidelines, along with all other Lottery programmes will be re-launched in April 2001 and, as stated in the 1999/00 report, work will be undertaken in consultation with the Literary Officer to ensure that information is disseminated widely within the sector.

Dance in Northern Ireland has been undergoing a difficult period. There is only one permanent, professional dance company in Northern Ireland and it submitted 2 applications during the year, which are currently awaiting decision. In the incoming year, it is anticipated that special initiatives will have to be undertaken by the Council to increase support for this sector.

In addressing the effects of social and economic deprivation the Arts Council set its target at local authority level whilst it continues to monitor the level of grants being directed at deprived electoral ward areas as classified by the Robson Index.

Projects which impact on social and economic deprivation reduction

Area	Target	Achievement
Increase overall number of awards to top four deprived local authority areas as classified by Robson Index	60% of total awards	75%

At Ward level (using the Robson Index) the deprivation scale runs from +20.70 being the most deprived ward (Falls in Belfast) to -27.57 being the least deprived (Ballymagee in North Down). For the year under review the breakdown of the 63 awards made to organisations in Northern Ireland is:

Deprivation Range	No. of Awards
+20.70 to +8.63	24
+8.64 to -3.44	20
-3.45 to -15.51	8
-15.52 to -27.57	11

Deprivation	No. of Awards
Areas >0	39
Areas <0	24

The table below demonstrates that since 1995 64% of awards have been made to electoral wards with a deprivation score greater than zero.

Deprivation Range	No. of Awards April 1995 – March 2001
+20.70 to +8.63	189
+8.64 to -3.44	224
-3.45 to -15.51	88
-15.52 to -27.57	70

Deprivation	No. of Awards April 1995 – March 2001
Areas >0	367
Areas <0	204

C the need to promote access to the arts for people from all sections of society;

“To support arts projects aimed at reducing the effects of social and economic deprivation and addressing the needs of people from all sections of society” is one of the 8 key published strategies which are common to all funding programmes and which influence all areas of operation and decision making. Each successful Lottery applicant is required to demonstrate that it has addressed the issue of access for people from all sections of society to both the facilities and services which would be provided within the project.

Projects which improve access for disabled people are considered a priority for Lottery funding. Each successful Lottery applicant is required to demonstrate that it has addressed the issue of access for people with disabilities to both the facilities and services which would be provided within the project.

D the need to promote knowledge of and appreciation of the arts by children and young people;

“To support the involvement of children and young people” is one of the 8 key published strategies which are common to all funding programmes and which influence all areas of operation and decision making.

The Arts Council set targets to increase the number of awards to projects which promoted the involvement of children and young people.

Projects which directly promote involvement of children and young people

Area	Target	Achievement
Increase awards by 10%	45 awards	21 awards

The figure is derived from projects which are directly targeted at, or which directly involve, children and young people. Other awards, such as equipment and new work, will also have benefit for this age group, although they are designed to attract a more general audience.

The low level of awards given in the year (71) made this a difficult target to achieve in strictly numerical terms. However, in 1999/00 37% of grants were awarded to projects directly involving young people. In the current year 21 awards represents 30% of the total number of awards.

The Arts Council made the final tranche of awards under the Interim Funding Scheme introduced in 1997/98. This scheme assisted students undertaking initial training in drama, dance or stage management. These awards helped six students attending the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art and the Guildford School of Acting.

E the need to further the objectives of sustainable development;

In common with other Lottery Distributors, and as part of Government’s social policy, the Arts Council of Northern Ireland considers awards towards projects which contribute to sustainable development. The Arts Council recognises that the arts can contribute to a balanced and healthy society and a large number of grants, both capital and revenue, have already made significant contributions to these areas.

Equipment and minor refurbishment grants made during the year have improved the social environment for a number of communities, both urban and rural.

The Arts Council will continue to support projects that contribute to these sectors but will not allow its funding to be diluted by awarding grants to schemes specifically developed to meet these objectives and where access to the arts is not the over-riding aim.

F *the needs of projects relating to film and the moving image, and in particular the need to foster the development of sustainable structures in the film industry, by, among other things, supporting the development, distribution and promotion of films, as well as their production;*

Area	Target	Achievement
Maintain current level of funding	£700,000	£388,286

In 2000/01 the budget for film was maintained at the level of the previous year, £700,000 to cover all elements of film – production, development, distribution and equipment. However, only 11 awards were made. The new short film distribution programme attracted only one application which was awarded. Fourteen film applications were rejected during the period, the main reason being of lack of benefit and relevance to Northern Ireland.

G *the needs of projects relating to crafts;*

The craft sector has been one of the most difficult to support because of the nature of working practices in the sector. No targets were set for craft pending the outcome of the Council’s craft review which was delivered in September 2000. The Council is currently appointing a Craft Officer who will take up post in the summer of 2001. The Lottery Department will consult with this Officer to identify the best way of attracting applications from the sector.

H *the need for money distributed under section 25(1) to be distributed to projects only where they are for a specific, time-limited purpose;*

To date all awards made by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland have been strictly for time-limited projects.

I *the need:*

- (i) in all cases, for applicants to demonstrate the financial viability of the project for the period of the grant;*
- (ii) where capital funding or setting-up costs are sought, for a clear business plan beyond the period of the grant incorporating provision for associated running and maintenance costs;*
- (iii) in other cases, for consideration to be given to likely availability of other funding to meet any continuing costs for a reasonable period after completion of the period of the Lottery award, taking into account the size and nature of the project, and for Lottery funding to be used to assist progress towards viability beyond the period of the grant wherever possible;*

“Projects must be financially viable” is one the published criteria which are used to assess each application. Each successful applicant is required to assure the Arts Council of Northern Ireland that funds will be available to meet the running costs of any development for a reasonable period of time following the completion of the project. Business plans and cash flow forecasts are required for all projects applying for Lottery funds £100,000. Capital projects applying for Lottery funds over £500,000 are required to provide a fully worked up project and investment appraisal, cash flow forecast and business plan. In addition external assessment of all projects requesting over £100,00 is undertaken and this assessment frequently focuses on the financial viability of the project.

Together with the award recipient, the Arts Council will consider the likely availability of other funding to meet any continuing costs for a reasonable period after completion of the period of the Lottery award and taking into account the size and nature of the project may use Lottery funding to assist progress towards viability beyond the period of the award wherever possible.

J the desirability of supporting the development of long-term financial and managerial viability of organisations in the arts. In taking this into account the Arts Council shall have regard to Direction H;

The six organisations which received *Advancement* awards in 1998/99 have continued to implement their individual strategies. The organisations continue to report to the Arts Council at regular intervals on progress against those strategies. These reports will feed into the review and consultation process which will take place in 2001/02 in order to set up a medium- and small-scale programme commencing in 2002/3.

K the need to require an element of partnership funding and/or contributions in kind from other sources, commensurate with the reasonable ability of different kinds of applicants, or applicants in particular areas to obtain such support;

“Partnership funding must come from another source” is one of the published criteria which are used to assess each application. Each successful Lottery application is supported by some form of partnership funding – cash, grant, voluntary labour or in-kind support. This funding often demonstrates commitment from the local community. As a general guide, under its capital programmes the Arts Council does not normally provide more than 75% towards the cost of any one project and, in the case of applications from local authorities or statutory agencies this is normally 50%.

Under the *Access to the Arts* programme, which is entirely dedicated to arts which take place in a community context, the Arts Council of Northern Ireland expects only a minimum of 10% partnership funding.

In agreement reached with the arts sector during the year, the Council’s new programmes to be launched in April 2002, will have greater variation in the levels of partnership funding required.

L the desirability of working with other organisations, including other distributors, where this is an effective means of delivering elements of its strategy;

Since the establishment of its National Lottery Fund the Arts Council of Northern Ireland has worked closely with other organisations, most notably with the other Lottery distributors in examining policy and practice to more effectively distribute funds to its applicants.

“To collaborate with other funding agencies to achieve the highest support for an investment in the arts” is one of the 8 key published strategies which are common to all funding programmes.

During the year under review the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, together with the Sports Council of Northern Ireland, the Community Fund (formerly the National Lottery Charities Board) and the Heritage Lottery Fund, commenced dialogue on the extension to Northern Ireland of the Awards for All scheme. This scheme will provide a fast, one-stop shop for applicants seeking small grants of between £500 and £5,000. The scheme is due to be launched in April 2001.

M the need to ensure that its power to solicit applications under section 25 (2A) are used in connection with the pursuit of strategic objectives;

The Council's procedures for solicitation ensure that:

- (a) there is a separate internal procedure for handling solicited applications to avoid actual or perceived conflict of interest;
- (b) the same application assessment processes are applied to solicited and unsolicited applications and that procedures are fair and seen to be fair.

The Arts Council did not solicit any applications during this year. However, it is expected that, given the under-representation in artform and geographic areas reported earlier in this report, the Council will choose to use its powers of solicitation in the 2001/02 year.

N such information as it considers necessary to make decisions on each application, including independent expert advice where required.

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland uses a variety of expert advisors when assessing applications for Lottery funding. All applications are assessed by a Lottery Case Officer. In addition applications are assessed by an appropriate artform Director of Officer of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. Where no expertise exists within the Arts council, external artform assessors are employed. The Northern Ireland Film Commission assesses all film applications except when a conflict of interest occurs in which case an alternative film assessor is appointed.

All applications requesting over £100,000 from the National Lottery Fund are externally assessed by an expert in whichever field is more relevant, eg. architect, accountant, etc.

Additional Considerations

The need for new buildings to be well-designed, fit for purpose and of high quality.

“High standards of design and architecture are to be applied” is one of the published criteria which are used to assess all relevant applications. High standards of design and architecture are also a significant priority in assessing applications for building projects. Applicants are encouraged to contact the Royal Society of Ulster Architects in order to seek early advice in order to develop schemes which make a significant and lasting impact on their surroundings and customers. An architectural design competition is considered essential for any new building project where Lottery funding is expected to contribute capital funds of £1,000,000 or more. The Arts Council of Northern Ireland offers awards of up to 50% towards architectural design competitions.

FINANCIAL DIRECTIONS

- i The Arts Council of Northern Ireland shall comply with the requirements contained within the Statement of Financial requirements ... when carrying out its functions under section 25 of the National Lottery etc. Act 1993 as amended by the National Lottery Act 1998. Wherever specified in that document, the Arts Council of Northern Ireland must obtain the consent of the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure before carrying out certain activities.*

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland has complied with all requirements contained within the Statement of Financial Requirements. The Arts Council has also been externally audited by the National Ireland Audit Office on behalf of Parliament and internally audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers.

- ii The Arts Council of Northern Ireland shall devise and abide by a procedure for handling potential conflicts of interest which may arise in the evaluation of applications by the Council or individual members of the Council. This procedure, together with a statement confirming that the arrangements have been applied, should be provided to the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure before the distribution of any funds under section 25 of the Act, and thereafter at the beginning of each financial year.*

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland has Standing Orders which set out the code of best practice for members of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. These govern the business and procedure at meetings of the Arts Council. These orders include procedures which are strictly adhered to, which deal with applications where a conflict of interest might arise. The Arts Council of Northern Ireland also maintains a register of interests for all staff, panel and Council members.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

The recipients and award amounts for all projects for which £100,000 or more of Lottery funding has been approved in the year.

Organisation	Total Project Cost	Award	Project Description
Y2K Film Productions Ltd	£2,768,648	£120,000	Feature Film Production - <i>Puckoon</i>
Mater Hospital Trust	£264,447	£129,723	Integrated Arts Project in new hospital

A description of progress, current and future financing for all uncompleted projects involving £5,000,000 or more of Lottery funding.

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland has funded no projects which involve £5,000,000 or more of Lottery funding.

Details of project monitoring and evaluation activities.

The Council's monitoring schemes are designed to:

- a) Ensure that Lottery funding has been employed for the purposes for which the award was made;
- b) Determine if the project has delivered its original aims and objectives;
- c) Examine the impact of the Lottery award, not only on the individual project, but also on wider arts development in the area;
- d) Safeguard the reputation of the Arts Council as a responsible distributor of Lottery funds;
- e) Identify schemes which have been successful, and those which have had difficulties, to feed back experiences to future applicants for use in future decision making.

The Arts Council continued to employ expert independent Project Monitors to report on each new building project and major refurbishment project. These Monitors produce monthly reports certifying progress on all elements of the construction project ensuring that Lottery awards were spent on the element for which they were given. During the year Monitors reported on 5 major building projects in Derry, Lisburn, Enniskillen, Downpatrick and Portadown involving a total of £5,095,038 of Arts Council Lottery funding.

Monitoring of projects other than buildings takes a number of forms:

- a) visits to randomly selected recipient organisations;
- b) self-completion questionnaires from applicants to verify the continued existence of assets and detailing their activities during the year.
- c) Follow-up visits to organisations where problems have been identified from the self-completion questionnaires
- d) attendance at performance events under the New Work programme

As a result of its equipment monitoring processes the Arts Council successfully prosecuted one case relating to the fraudulent supply of paperwork by a supplier involving a number of Lottery grants towards the purchase of musical instruments.

In the year under review Council officers visited 12 organisations in its random sample of equipment grants. As a result the Arts Council has recouped grants from organisations where it has been discovered that the full amount of the grant has not been spent by the applicant, or where the applicant has sold on or exchanged the asset and has not informed the Council of its activities.

The Arts Council will be re-launching its equipment and musical instrument programmes in April 2001 and, in light of its findings and the prosecution detailed above the requirements on applicants and suppliers will be amended in an attempt to lessen the possibilities of fraud. The Council will also issue guidance to applicants in dealing with suppliers.

Under its *Access* programme 10 Awards were completed during the year. Each recipient was required to return mid-term reports and final reports in order to secure grant payment. These reports detail both project and financial progress. As a result of monitoring these returns the Arts Council proposes to change the payment procedures for Access awards under its new programmes in order to assure itself that funds are not being paid out in advance of need.

The Arts Council did not undertake any evaluation studies during the year.

Targets for Administrative Efficiency

Level of processing administration time

Area	Target	Achievement
Reduce the average processing time from 94 working days (in 1999/00)	90 working days	87 working days

This calculation is the average calculated across applications of all types.

Ratio of capital to revenue projects

Area	Target	Achievement
Reduce the ratio from 1.4:1(in 1999/00)	1:1	1.9:1 (1:2.4)

This increase in the number of capital projects reflects the relatively high proportion of New Work awards (24) during the year. During the year there was a moratorium on building applications with only 2 awards out of a total of 71 being made towards new build or refurbishment. Included in the capital award category are film equipment and feasibility studies. The New Works programme was introduced as a capital programme but under the programme to be launched in April 2001, the legal requirement to produce a capital asset will be removed and the programme will be redefined as a revenue programme.