



HEALTH AND SAFETY CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Application Guidance Notes

Programme Open	Deadline for Applications	Decisions
Monday, 16 May 2022	12noon, Thursday 9 June 2022	9 September 2022

Please note that all purchases and minor works must be completed by **Tuesday 28 February 2023 at the latest**. 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.

CONTENTS

Introduction **3**

Is your project timeframe suitable?

Aims of the Health and Safety Capital Programme

How much funding is available?

How much partnership funding do you need?

Eligibility **5**

Who can apply?

Who cannot apply?

What you can apply for

What you cannot apply for

How to Apply **7**

Help with your application

Making an online application

Mandatory enclosures

Government Funding Database

Detailed guidance on mandatory enclosures

After you submit your application

How We Will Make Our Decision **16**

Assessment criteria

How are decisions made?

Is the Arts Council's decision final?

CONTENTS

If You Receive an Award **17**

Letter of offer

How payments will be made

Procurement of goods and services

Post-project monitoring

Children / Young People / Adults at Risk

Equality of Opportunity

Other information **20**

Openness and accountability

Data Protection

Email Notifications

And finally...

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's Health and Safety Capital 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 [here](#). They may also be requested in large print or other accessible formats if required. Please contact us at artgrants@artscouncil-ni.org if you need further assistance in this regard.

IS YOUR PROJECT TIMEFRAME 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 and at the latest 28 February 2023. 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 28 February 2023. 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.

AIMS OF THE HEALTH AND SAFETY CAPITAL 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 address any health and safety issues that has been created due to Covid-19 or has been an outstanding maintenance issue which has rendered the space not fit for purpose.

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 proper measures in place to welcome their staff, artists and audiences. We also want to support organisations in their delivery of the arts in new and creative alternatives.

Particular priority will be given to equipment and minor works which:

- address Covid-19 requirements;
- improves the accessibility of the arts;
- continues the safe practice for continued accessibility of the arts;
- improves the environment for the arts sector;
- enhances or broadens the audience/participants' experience.

INTRODUCTION

HOW MUCH FUNDING IS AVAILABLE?

The Health and Safety Capital Programme budget is £400k. 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.

- 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 equipment¹ and/or minor works costs.
- You will need to provide at least 2 quotes for each requested item of equipment - more if the value of the item is above £5,000 (**see pages 11 and 12 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 3 identical laptops which each cost £1,000, you only need to upload 2 quotes in relation to this; you do not have to upload 2 separate quotes for each of the 3 laptops.
- For minor works applications, you will need to provide a schedule of work, together with at least 2 quotations for each element of the work (**see page 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.

¹ 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
- 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 CAN YOU 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:

- Covid-19 equipment in line with Government requirements
- Creation of safe spaces in relation to Covid-19 needs

ELIGIBILITY

- New equipment / structures to enable delivery outdoors
- IT equipment to address the new working environment
- Software (pre-loaded operating systems and packages)
- Accessibility equipment and minor works
- Works in relation to upgrading and maintaining existing systems
- Transport.

* 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

- Consumables such as masks, gloves or cleaning products
- Second-hand equipment without a warranty / guarantee.
- Equipment service costs
- Subscription costs

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.

HOW TO APPLY

HELP WITH YOUR APPLICATION

These Guidance Notes are available on request in large print format and disk, and also on the Arts Council's website here: <http://www.artscouncil-ni.org> .

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 the website - <http://artscouncil-ni.org/contact-us>.

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 Health and Safety Capital Programme webpage here <http://artscouncil-ni.org/funding/for-organisations> .

- 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, ie. 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 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 9 June 2022.** 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).

HOW TO APPLY

You must upload the following mandatory enclosures to your Health and Safety capital 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 quotations or tenders** for each item of equipment, depending on cost (**see pages 11 and 12 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.
- **IF** applying for minor works costs, **2 or more quotations or tenders** for each element of work to be undertaken, depending on cost (**see page 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 2022 (**if** the accounts you have uploaded to the Government Funding Database are not for 2021/22 – see additional notes below.)
- Detailed I&E budget for your whole organization for the 2022/23 financial year - this must cover the period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.
- Detailed description of your organisation's programme of planned arts activities for 2022/23 - this must cover the period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 – only applicants who are not 2022/23 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.

HOW TO APPLY

Important points continued:

- 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 quotations 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

<https://govfundingpublic.nics.gov.uk/Home.aspx>

- 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 11-15 at the time of submitting your online application.

HOW TO APPLY

GOVERNMENT FUNDING DATABASE (cont'd)

If you are not currently on the Database you will be required to register at <https://govfundingpublic.nics.gov.uk/Home.aspx>. 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.

Full 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 (eg. 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.

HOW TO APPLY

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. Staff contact details are available on the Arts Council website - <http://artscouncil-ni.org/contact-us>.

Mandatory Enclosure	Upload to	Guidance on Enclosure
Equipment / Minor Works Request List Pro Forma	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>You must use and complete the excel pro forma provided. Do not amend the format of the sheet, or add new columns – though you may add new rows. 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.</p> <p>Important Note: VAT</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. <u>If this is not completed the list will not be accepted</u></p>
Quotations for each Item of Equipment	Online Application	<p>The number of quotations you must provide depends on the cost of the equipment as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) up to £5,000 in value (excluding VAT): A minimum of two quotations or evidence of a price check with at least two contractors/suppliers to ensure value for money has been achieved. Price checks and/or quotations should be documented and retained on file for verification purposes. (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). (iii) £30,000 to EU Thresholds. The organisation must refer to the Arts Council for further discussion. <p>The Arts Council of Northern Ireland reserves the rights to examine all paperwork to verify compliance with this condition.</p>

HOW TO APPLY

Mandatory Enclosure	Upload to	Guidance on Enclosure
<p>Quotations for each Item of Equipment</p> <p>(continued)</p>		<p>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.</p> <p>Quotations must include stated delivery dates: if no delivery date is included, or the delivery date is after 28 February 2023 at the latest, the quotation will not be accepted as eligible.</p> <p>Acceptable Quotations: Scans of original documents; email quotations; screen captures from online retailer sites.</p> <p>All quotations must clearly indicate whether the stated cost includes VAT.</p> <p>Unacceptable Quotations: Weblinks or website addresses in lieu of quotations <u>are not acceptable</u> and will result in your application being made ineligible.</p> <p>Illegible or incomplete quotations will be deemed as ineligible</p>
<p>Schedule of Work to be Undertaken</p>	<p>Online Application</p>	<p>IF you are applying for minor works costs, provide a schedule detailing each element of the planned minor works.</p>
<p>Quotations for each Element of Minor Work</p>	<p>Online Application</p>	<p>IF you are applying for minor works costs, the number of quotations you must provide depends on the cost of minor works, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) up to £5,000 in value (excluding VAT): A minimum of two quotations or evidence of a price check with at least two contractors/suppliers to ensure value for money has been achieved. Price checks and/or quotations should be documented and retained on file for verification purposes. (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). (iii) £30,000 to EU Thresholds. The organisation must refer to the Arts Council for further discussion. <p>The Arts Council of Northern Ireland reserves the rights to examine all paperwork to verify compliance with this condition.</p>

HOW TO APPLY

Mandatory Enclosure	Upload to	Guidance on Enclosures
Lease Statement	Online Application	<p>IF you are applying for minor works costs, 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, eg. 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>
Management Accounts up to the period 31 March 2022	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 2021/22 (ie, if your most recent audited accounts are for the 2020/21 financial year), we require a set of management accounts covering the intervening period, up to March 2022. 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>
Detailed I&E budget for your whole organisation	Online Application	<p>This is a budget for your entire organisation for the 2022/23 financial year - this must cover the period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.</p>

HOW TO APPLY

Mandatory Enclosure	Upload to	Guidance on enclosure
Detailed description of 2022/23 arts programme	Online Application	<p>This is a mandatory enclosure for all applicants who are <u>not</u> ACNI 2022/23 AFP clients - this must cover the period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.</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"> • Locations and dates of all events within the programme • 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. • 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 • 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.) • Name of Project Manager for each major element, stating their experience of managing/delivering arts activities.
Constitution and/or Memorandum and Articles of Association	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.
Most recent set of Audited/Certified Accounts	GFD	Please note: if these accounts are not for 2021/22, ie up to the period 31 March 2022, you must upload a set of management accounts with your application.
Organisation Chart	GFD	This is a diagram showing us the structure of your organisation, in terms of staff, board and committees.

HOW TO APPLY

Mandatory Enclosure	Upload to	Guidance on enclosure
List of Office Bearers	GFD	A list of <u>all</u> the office bearers on your board and sub-committees (if relevant), eg, Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Chair of the Finance Committee etc.
Rental Agreement / Lease / Evidence of Ownership	GFD	These documents are in relation to the premises from which your organisation operates. If your organisation does not have a rental agreement or lease in place, please provide a statement confirming this.

Non-Mandatory Enclosure	Upload to	Guidance on Enclosure
Copies of LOOs from Other Funders	Online Application	IF 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

- You will receive a Monitoring Form which will be published to your application account after the Programme closes. You will receive an email advising you that the monitoring form is available for completion once the form has been published to your account. **You must complete and return the Monitoring Form as part of the application process. If you do not do so, your application will be ineligible and will not be assessed.**
- 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.
- If eligible, the Arts Council will acknowledge receipt of the application form.
- If eligible, an Arts Development Officer will assess your application. This process will be based on the information provided in the application form and enclosures, and on our knowledge of your organisation's management of any previous awards.
- Officer assessments will be subject to a moderation process.
- The Arts Council will contact you with the final decision by letter which is likely to be via 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: Health and Safety and/or Covid-19 related benefits

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 – Health and Safety and/or Covid-19 related benefits: You should detail how the request will address the needs of your Organisation. If there are any requested items in response to Covid-19 this should be stated also.

Criterion 2 - Public Benefit: You should detail how the equipment / 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.

HOW ARE DECISIONS 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.

Please note that where the funding programme is over-subscribed, Arts Council reserves the right to prioritise those applications where the requested equipment and/or minor works is in response to Covid-19 restrictions.

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 11 and 12 above. They 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.

IF YOU RECEIVE AN AWARD

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.
- 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 (eg. procurement, processing of payments within your organisation) related to project delivery were in compliance with LOO conditions and your own stated financial procedures. It is therefore important that you retain all the project documentation which evidences 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

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.

IF YOU RECEIVE AN AWARD

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 files and also 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 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/

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.

OTHER INFORMATION

EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS (cont'd)

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 and mailuk@grantapplication.com will not be blocked by your email or firewall programmes.

AND FINALLY...

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 the website - <http://artscouncil-ni.org/contact-us>.

These Guidance Notes are available on request in large print format and disk, and also on the Arts Council's website here: <http://www.artscouncil-ni.org> .