



Department for  
**Communities**

[www.communities-ni.gov.uk](http://www.communities-ni.gov.uk)

From: Leo O'Reilly  
Permanent Secretary

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Your Ref:  
Our Ref: PSC 812.18  
Date: 3 July 2018

Henry Downey

Via e-mail [democraticservices@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@belfastcity.gov.uk)

Dear *Henry*,

Thank you for your letter of 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018 requesting a meeting between myself and a Council deputation to seek additional funding for the arts.

In terms of the Arts Matters NI Campaign, financial support for the arts sector is provided via the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. The Department for Communities provides Grant-in-Aid funding to support the Arts Council in exercising its responsibilities in this regard.

DfC's overall budget for this year was reduced, and this reduction was applied across our multiple funding streams. Thus the total amount allocated by us to the Arts Council this year was £10,092,480 compared to £10,572,000 last year. The Arts Council uses this money, as well as money from the Arts Lottery Fund, to allocate money to individual arts projects and programmes. The Department does not become involved in the decisions made by the Arts Council to allocate specific amounts of money to specific projects. These must remain decisions for the Arts Council based on its assessment of the relative artistic merit of individual projects.

We keep our in year financial position under review, but at this stage we currently have no money available to allocate any further funds to the Arts Council this year. We will advise you if this position changes and in light of that can I suggest that the option of a meeting be deferred at this time.

Yours sincerely,

*Leo O'Reilly*  
LEO O'REILLY

PERMANENT SECRETARY

