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# Arts Spending per Capita in Northern Ireland

## 1 Introduction

A study carried out by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland (ACNI) showed that the amount of money spent per capita on the arts in Northern Ireland for the financial year 2008/09 was £7.58<sup>1</sup>. Another study, however, conducted by DCAL calculated this figure to be £9.95.<sup>2</sup>

Both figures are calculated using different methodologies and including spend on the arts from different sources, such as ACNI, DCAL, Local Government and Lottery Funding. This paper gives an analysis of the different methodologies for calculating arts spend and assesses the model used by DCAL.

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<sup>1</sup> ACNI, <http://www.artscouncil-ni.org/news/2009/Files/CALInquiry.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> DCAL Research Paper- Arts Spend per Capita

## 2 Arts Council Spend

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland is the primary source of arts funding in the region receiving funding from DCAL and other sources such as Lottery funding. Table 1 shows the level of spend per capita by Arts Councils over three financial years across the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

Table 1: Arts Councils spend per capita across UK and ROI over three financial years<sup>3</sup>

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
<b>Scotland</b>	£12.01	£9.21	£14.04
<b>Wales</b>	£8.81	£9.60	£10.10
<b>England</b>	£8.09	£8.14	£8.47
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	£6.09	£6.11	£7.58
<b>Republic of Ireland</b>	€12.46	€18.87	€17.92

This table shows arts spending per capita for Northern Ireland to be £7.58 for 2008/09 which is less than England and significantly less than the amount spent in both Scotland and Wales. The table, however, only shows money spent by Arts Councils and omits spend from other sources.

The Arts Council for Northern Ireland (ACNI) responded to the 2009 CAL Inquiry into funding of the arts in Northern Ireland. They argue that arts spending per capita in Northern Ireland has been renowned for being the lowest in the UK and Ireland. They state that this has had a direct impact on artists and arts organisations as the number and value of applications for funding far exceeds the available resources.<sup>4</sup> However, they were only using figures for spending by Arts Councils and not spending on the arts coming from other sources.

In addition to money spent by ACNI on the arts, money is spent directly from DCAL and local government, and models of spend can be developed from each source.

Table 2 shows the total spent over the past three years on the arts from various sources.

<sup>3</sup> ACNI, <http://www.artscouncil-ni.org/news/2009/Files/CALInquiry.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> ACNI, <http://www.artscouncil-ni.org/news/2009/Files/CALInquiry.pdf>

Table 2: Resource arts spend over the past three years by DCAL, ACNI, NI Screen and Local Government<sup>5</sup>

	DCAL	Arts Council	NI Screen	Local Government
2008/09	£1,271,000	£14,277,000	£2,106,000	£24,263,083
2007/08	£2,334,000	£12,490,000	£1,769,000	£21,030,641
2006/07	£2,492,000	£11,132,000	£1,523,000	-

The research undertaken by DCAL looked at four sources of arts spend to define the scope of their model:

- Central government spend
- Capital spend
- Local government spend
- Lottery spend<sup>6</sup>

### 3 Central Government Spend

Spending on the arts in central government can occur across a number of departments. Calculating spend across all government departments will provide the most comprehensive figure for any spending on the arts. However, DCAL identify a number of drawbacks with this as each department has different definitions of what the arts are and to obtain arts spend from all of central government would be too resource intensive under the current economic climate.<sup>7</sup>

Rather than look at the central government spending as a whole, it is useful to calculate the arts spending of the devolved departments responsible for arts and culture. The lead departments for the arts across the UK regions are:

- Northern Ireland: Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure
- England: Department for Culture, Media and Sport
- Scotland: Department for Arts, Culture and Sport
- Wales: Department for Heritage

Arts spend by each of these departments is easily accessible. As the Culture departments across the UK deliver the majority of central government arts spend, concentrating on the arts spend of these departments is a more practical method than looking at the entirety of central government.

<sup>5</sup> Information supplied by DCAL

<sup>6</sup> DCAL Research Paper- Arts Spend per Capita

<sup>7</sup> DCAL Research Paper- Arts Spend Per Capita

However, there are varying definitions of ‘the arts’ across the four regions and each department has differences on what ‘arts spend’ covers.

## 4 Capital Spend

Including capital spend in the calculation can show the amount of long term investment in the arts. However, capital spend can fluctuate greatly year on year. DCAL excluded capital spend from their model for this reason. Table 3 below shows the variations in capital spend over a three year period across the UK and Ireland.

Table 3: Three year rolling capital spend per capita in the UK and Ireland

Three year rolling capital	ROI	England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland
2008/09	€8.63	£0.59	£0.41	£0.20	£2.38
2007/08	€7.17	£0.42	£0.46	£0.33	£1.78
2006/07	-	£0.25	£0.44	£0.35	£0.72

The table shows quite significant increases in the level of capital spending in Northern Ireland over the three year period, however, given the current economic situation it remains to be seen if the level of capital spending will increase further.

## 5 Local Government Spend

It is important to look at the level of spending on the arts by local government as a lot of funding is sourced from there.

Table 4 shows arts spend by local government across the UK under the categories ‘Arts development and support’ and ‘Theatres and Public Entertainment’.

Table 4: Local Government arts spending per capita for the UK regions<sup>8</sup>

	England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland
2007/08	£6.84	£14.17	£18.13	£11.96
2008/09	-	£13.15	-	£13.80

For 2007/08 the arts spend per capita by local government in Northern Ireland was £11.96 and for 2008/09 this increased to approximately £13.80. A significant amount is spent on the arts by local government and this can be attributed to the fact that local government draws money from DCAL and ACNI. Although looking at spend on the arts by local government and DCAL together can be complementary, including local government in the model for calculating total arts spend can lead to duplication and an inaccurate figure.

## 6 Lottery Spend

The percentage share of lottery spend that is given to each region is set out in legislation and is relative to population size. Table 5 shows how UK Lottery Funding is shared out.

Table 5: Current Percentage Share of Lottery Funding

	England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland
Art	83.3%	8.9%	5.0%	2.8%
Sport	75.6%	8.1%	4.5%	2.6%
Heritage	83.2%	8.8%	5.0%	2.9%
Big Lottery Fund	77.5%	11.5%	6.5%	4.5%

DCAL did not include lottery spend in their methodology for calculating total arts spend because:

- The percentage going to each country is already set out in legislation and is based on relative population.
- Local administrations have no control over how the lottery is spent which makes it difficult to compare the jurisdictions.
- Lottery funding is not time bound for a financial year. Lottery spend on the arts can be skewed in a year by big capital projects.

<sup>8</sup> Source: Local government Financial Statistics England No.19 2000, Scottish Local Government Financial Statistics 2007/08, Welsh Local Government Financial Statistics 2009 and DOE Local Government Division. England, Wales and Northern Ireland Data is collected under the headings 'Arts development and support' and 'Theatres and Public Entertainment'. Scotland data is collected under the headings 'Other cultural and heritage services'.

## 7 The DCAL model for arts spending per capita

The scope of the DCAL model covers only central government spend (that of the lead departments). More than one department can spend money on the arts and each department may have a different definition of the arts which can make it difficult to consistently identify what is spent across all departments. The DCAL methodology for calculating arts spending includes the lead arts departments across the UK. However, as has previously been stated, each of these departments has differing responsibilities and definitions of the arts. To restrict the model to some of the arts spend in each department may further complicate the process and so the DCAL model includes all arts expenditure of the main department in each region and the definition of the arts is defined as any activity covered by arts funding within each department.

Table 6 shows the proposed DCAL model.

Table 6: DCAL arts spend per capita model based on final spend

	Northern Ireland	England	Scotland	Wales	ROI
<b>2008/09</b>	£9.95	£7.89	£14.42	£10.42	€18.45
<b>2007/08</b>	£9.43	£7.90	£14.41	£10.15	€18.82
<b>2006/07</b>	£8.70	£7.64	£11.51	£9.46	€17.44

Table 6 shows the spend per capita in Northern Ireland is £9.95 which is more than England but still lagging behind Scotland, Wales and Republic of Ireland. This figure indicates money spent by DCAL on resource and excludes capital spend, money spent by other departments, local government spend and lottery funding.

It is important to look at the other funding sources to get a comprehensive assessment of arts spending, however, because of duplication, for example funding to local government, they cannot be viewed as definitive and totally separate from central government spend.

## 8 Breakdown of UK regions arts departments' spend

A similar study using the same model as DCAL was conducted by the Arts Council. Table 7 shows a breakdown of the areas of spending by the departments across the UK.

Table 7: Arts Spend Per Capita Comparison<sup>9</sup>

<b>Northern Ireland</b>	Grant-in-aid	£14,277,000
	Northern Ireland Screen	£2,106,000
	Salaries and General Arts Expenditure	£1,163,000
	Arts Branch Costs	£108,000
	Total	£17,654,000
	Mid-Year Population Estimate	1,775,000
	Per Capita	£9.95
<b>Wales</b>	Welsh Assembly Government	£25,800,000
	Wales Millennium Centre	£2,700,000
	Welsh Assembly Government (running costs)	£2,700,000
	Total	£31,200,000
	Mid-Year Population Estimate	2,993,400
Per Capita	£10.42	
<b>Scotland</b>	Grant-in-Aid	£46,980,000
	National Performance Companies (NPCs)	£24,110,000
	Scottish Screen	£3,440,000
	Total	£74,530,000
	Mid-Year Population Estimate	5,168,500
	Per Capita	£14.42
<b>England</b>	Near Cash	£403,819,000
	Non-Cash	£2,144,000
	Mid-Year Population Estimate	51,446,200
	Per Capita	£7.89

The table shows that the majority of funding from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (England) is delivered directly to the Arts Council, in Scotland it is split between the Scottish Arts Council, NPCs and Scottish Screen.

Included in the Northern Ireland figure is 'Salaries and General Arts Expenditure' and 'Arts Branch Costs' which are not included in the figures for the other three regions. When DCAL were developing the arts spend model they were unable to obtain staffing costs for the other three regions. As the Department wanted to include as much as

<sup>9</sup> Information supplied by Arts Council of Northern Ireland

possible in their model, staffing was included, however, it is not included in the figures for England, Scotland and Wales.<sup>10</sup>

Northern Ireland's DCAL spend per capita of £9.95 is already lower than Scotland and Wales and as staffing may not technically be included in 'arts funding', removing the staffing costs will reduce the per capita spend in Northern Ireland.

Table 8 shows what the actual spend per capita in Northern Ireland when staffing and arts branch costs are removed.

Table 8: Arts spend per capita with and without staffing and arts branch costs.

DCAL final spend with staffing		DCAL final spend without staffing	
Grant-in-aid Northern Ireland	£14,277,000	Grant-in-aid Northern Ireland Screen	£14,277,000
Screen Salaries and General Arts Expenditure	£2,106,000		£2,106,000
Arts Branch Costs	£1,163,000		
Total	£108,000	Total	
Mid-Year Population Estimate	£17,654,000	Mid-Year Population Estimate	£16,383,000
Per Capita	1,775,000	Per Capita	1,775,000
	£9.95		£9.23

The table above shows that by removing staffing and arts branch costs from the total spend, the amount spent per capita in Northern Ireland is reduced to £9.23.

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland argues that in order for an accurate figure for arts spending to be calculated across the UK, the figures need to be comparable. The areas of spend need to be consistent across the regions. This is difficult as each Department may have differing definitions of the arts and money may be allocated in different ways.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Conversation with Orla Bateson, DCAL, 26.11.10.

<sup>11</sup> Conversation with ACNI staff, 24.11.10.