

Grants to Arts, Heritage and Culture Organisations

Project Specification

Background

The funding of arts, heritage and culture organisations is used by the Government of Jersey to help deliver a range of strategic objectives which contribute to Island life. The Government takes responsibility for protecting cultural assets and enabling access to the arts and to heritage and culture. Fulfilling these responsibilities relies to a large extent on services being delivered through partner organisations which are supported by Government funding.

The Government supports several arts, heritage and culture organisations which have a range of responsibilities and differing governance and accountability arrangements. However, this does not relieve the Government from a responsibility for ensuring that good governance is being demonstrated, effective internal control is in place and value for money is being secured.

The Government commissioned a strategic review of arts, heritage and culture in 2018. The subsequent report included a range of recommendations focussed on addressing the challenges within the sector. In response to this, the Council of Ministers agreed separate Arts and Heritage Strategies in December 2021. These were launched in early 2022.

Funding for heritage, arts and culture is forecast at £8.7 million for 2022. This includes new investment as part of a commitment from 2019 (p40/2019) to increase funding for arts, heritage and culture to a total of 1% of the Government's budget. The expenditure approved in the Government Plan 2022 to 2025 is shown in Exhibit 1.

Exhibit 1: Government Plan approved expenditure on arts, heritage and culture

	2022 £000	2023 £000	2024 £000	2025 £000
Base budget	4,628	4,628	4,628	4,628
Investment in Government Plan	3,795	3,426	3,386	3,586
Inflation estimate	303	512	721	930
Total approved expenditure	8,726	8,566	8,735	9,144
% of Government budget	1.02%	1.00%	1.02%	1.04%

Source: Government Plan 2022 to 2025

The Government Plan 2022 to 2025 also includes approved capital project expenditure for Elizabeth Castle as shown in Exhibit 2.

Exhibit 2: Government Plan approved expenditure on Elizabeth Castle

	2022 £000	2023 £000	2024 £000	2025 £000
Elizabeth Castle	1,250	2,027	1,676	-

Source: Government Plan 2022 to 2025

In 2021, the Government provided grant support of over £75,000 to three organisations. The grant support to these four organisations totalled £6.1 million. (2020 £6.3 million). Exhibit 3 contains more detail.

Exhibit 3: Grants to arts, heritage and culture organisations in 2021, 2020 and 2019

	2021 £000	2020 £000	2019 £000
Jersey Heritage	4,503	4,405	2,843
Jersey Arts Trust (Art House Jersey)	515	687	930
Jersey Arts Centre Association	602	511	525
Jersey Opera House	572	698	529
Total	6,192	6,301	4,827

Source: Government of Jersey

In 2021, the Government launched a Fiscal Stimulus Fund to support economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. In April 2021, a total of £5.1 million of funding was approved from this fund to refurbish both the Jersey Opera House (£2.2 million) and Jersey Arts Centre (£2.9 million). The requirements of the Fiscal Stimulus Fund were that the work was required to be completed by June 2022.

In February 2022, the Government announced that, following a review of the condition of the Opera House building, a revised timescale for the renovation had been agreed with a new target date for the re-opening to the public of 2023. The delay means that the £2.2 million required for the work will no longer be provided by the Fiscal Stimulus Fund. Instead, the Minister for Treasury and Resources has agreed that the required investment will be allocated from alternative funding sources.

The Functions of the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG)

Article 11 of the Comptroller and Auditor General (Jersey) Law 2014 requires the C&AG to:

- provide the States with independent assurance that the public finances of Jersey are being regulated, controlled, supervised and accounted for in accordance with the Public Finances (Jersey) Law 2005
- consider and report to the States on:
 - the effectiveness of internal controls of the States, States funded bodies and funds
 - the economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the way the States, States funded bodies and funds use their resources; and
 - the general corporate governance arrangements of the States, States funded bodies and funds; and
- make recommendations to bring about improvement where improvement is needed.

Objectives of this review

The review will consider wider strategic issues alongside a specific focus on support to arts, heritage and culture organisations. It will evaluate:

- the effectiveness of the plans and processes in place to implement the new Arts and Heritage Strategies
- the effectiveness of the plans and processes in place to monitor delivery of the new Arts and Heritage Strategies
- the adequacy of Government arrangements for the award of the grants to arts, heritage and culture organisations, including:
 - linkage to strategic objectives
 - justification for the level of grant; and
 - how awards to different arts, heritage and culture bodies complement one another
- the adequacy of Government arrangements for oversight of arts, heritage and culture organisations, including:
 - internal control
 - value for money
 - corporate governance; and
 - measurement of performance against objectives of the grant; and
- the adequacy of Government arrangements for the oversight of capital grant funding of renovation projects at arts, heritage and culture sites.

Scope

The scope of this review extends to arrangements in the Department for the Economy and its relationships with grant receiving organisations.

The review does not include consideration of the decision to establish any of the grant receiving organisations.

The objectives and/or scope of the review may be amended during the review in the light of emerging findings or other matters arising.

Approach

The review will commence with an initial documentation request encompassing both publicly available and internal documents. The findings of the document review will be followed up by interviews with key officers and with key arts, heritage and culture organisations.

The detailed work will be undertaken by an affiliate engaged by the C&AG. Fieldwork is planned to commence in May 2022.



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