



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Belfast City Council gives over £29,000 to sodomite support organisations which Stormont Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure then tops up!!

Dear Mr

Thank you for your e-mail dated 22 July 2011 requesting, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, information on funding of lesbian, gay or bisexual groups and events for each of the last five years by Belfast City Council.

I can confirm that the Council does hold the information you have requested and has decided it can be disclosed. Accordingly the information is provided in the attached spreadsheet.

If you are dissatisfied with how the Council handled your request for information, you have the right to request that the Council formally review this decision. If you wish to do so, please write to the Records Manager, Belfast City Council, Chief Executive's Department, Records Management Unit, Room 218, City Hall, Belfast, BT1 5GS.

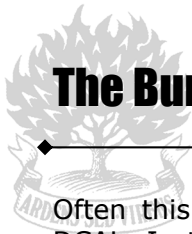
Should you remain dissatisfied following the Council's internal review, you can seek an independent review from the Information Commissioner. Requests for an independent review should be made in writing to: The Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. However I would advise you that the Information Commissioner has indicated that a review will not be undertaken unless the Council has first had an opportunity to re-consider its decision.

If you have any queries about this email, please contact me.

Moya Sheridan
Chief Executive's Department, Room 216, City Hall.

Below is the information contained in the accompanying spreadsheet.

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|-----------|---|
| Belfast Pride | Community Festival Fund 2011/12 | £3,750.00 | Belfast Pride 2011 festival |
| Belfast Pride | Community Festival Fund 2010/11 | £5,000.00 | Belfast Pride 2010 festival |
| Cara-Friend | Community Festival Fund 2009/10 | £4,000.00 | Outburst Queer Art festival 2009 |
| Outburst Queer Art Festival | Community Festival Fund 2010/11 | £5,000.00 | Re-image Belfast as an inclusive and welcoming city. |
| Cara-Friend | Revenue Grant 2010/11 | £7,231.20 | Running costs of community building |
| Belfast Pride | Project Grant 2008 | £500.00 | Preparation for Gay Pride Parade |
| Rainbow Project | Belfast District Policing Board* | £700.00 | support the Report Incidents of Hate Initiative in April 2009 |
| Rainbow Project | Belfast Community Safety Partnership* | £500.00 | to cover the costs of crime reporting promotional materials in Jan 10 |
| Rainbow Project | Belfast Community Safety Partnership* | £3,000.00 | to support the Advocacy Project in March 2010 |
| *The funding was administered by the Council on behalf of this group | | | |



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Often this type of funding for community organisations is then matched by Stormont's DCAL. In this instance DCAL contributed an additional £17, 750—£14, 000 of which was paid over under the watch of a DUP minister. This policy is confirmed by the following email from the Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure which was in response to a question by a Free Presbyterian minister.

20 June 2011

Dear Mr

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Thank you for your e-mail of 28 May 2011 requesting:

- a) a breakdown of funding under Freedom of Information given to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender groups by the Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure during the last 5 years; and
- b) a particular breakdown of any funding given to the Gay Pride March in Belfast each of the last 5 years?

In general DCAL does not directly fund individual organisations, and funding is disbursed through its arm's length bodies. These organisations are responsible for individual funding decisions, and the Department does not hold papers in relation to individual funding awards made to third parties. As a result I cannot provide you with details of funding made through non-Departmental bodies accountable to DCAL. I have instead provided contact details for each applicable body (see Annex A) should you wish to contact them directly.

The Northern Ireland Events Company was until recent years one of DCAL's arms length bodies and it administered the Community Festivals Fund. One qualifying event was funded by the Northern Ireland Events Company during this period through the Community Festivals Fund. Details of awards made are attached at Annex A.

From 1 April 2008 the delivery of the Community Festivals Fund transferred to Local Authorities. DCAL continues to provide match funding to each Local Authority for the Community Festivals Fund, but unfortunately we are unable to provide you with information relating to funding made to specific types of groups in the 2008/09 financial period or later as we do not hold information on the type or nature of organisation being funded. You may therefore wish to contact the Councils directly.

Responsibility for other events funding transferred to the Northern Ireland Tourist Board (Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment) in April 2010. You may



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wish to contact NITB directly for details of events funding awarded after this date.

If you feel that the information we have provided does not fully meet your request, you have the right to request that the Department formally reviews this decision. Should you wish to do so, please write to:

Information Management Branch
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure
Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
Belfast
BT2 7EG

The complex system of funding sodomite organisations is a bid, I believe, to conceal the full extent of the support given by Stormont government to this evil thing and especially to conceal the part played by the DUP party. The DUP once campaigned against sodomy but is now involved in aiding it with very large sums of public money.