

Arts Council

Responding to DSP Green Paper on Disability Reform

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Supporting
Equality, Diversity
and Inclusion

Ag Tacú
le Comhionannas,
Éagsúlacht agus Cuimsiú

Green Paper on Disability Reform

Our perspective - where are we coming from?

- **National development agency for the arts**
- **Strategy and vision that forefronts artists and principles of equality and inclusion**
- **We recognise there are barriers – inc grants to artists who are in receipt of disability benefits**
- **We have advocated on these concerns**
- **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy / Paying the Artist Policy**
- **Track record in policy, programmes and funding for the development of arts and disability as an area of arts practice**

Green Paper on Disability Reform

What is the Green Paper on Disability Reform?

- **A proposal from Department of Social Welfare – for consultation – on how disability supports might be offered in the future**

- **Arising from:**

- Indecon ‘Cost of Disability Study’ 2021
- Roadmap for Social Inclusion strategy
- Pathways to Work strategy

- **At proposal stage only – important to respond – for everyone to have their say.**

Proposes

- to replace the multiple existing welfare schemes for people with disabilities
- with a single scheme
- offer 3-tiers of supports based on an assessment of a person’s ‘ability to work’
- Described as a proposal to target resources and remove anomalies

Green Paper on Disability Reform

Shaping our response

- Reviewed the proposal, attended consultations run by DSP – heard concerns expressed on core issues, core questions
- Arts Council not a mandated ‘representative’ organisation
- Arts Council to focus on implications for disabled artists and our role as a public body committed to equality, diversity and inclusion
- Concerns the new approach may not deliver benefits for artists
- Envisage proposal focused around two core themes:
 - The rights of people with disabilities to participate in arts and culture
 - And need for disability supports to reflect how artists work

Green Paper on Disability Reform

The right to participate in arts and culture

- **United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

- Everyone has the right to freely participate in the cultural life of the community

- **The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

- persons with disabilities...opportunity to develop and utilise their creative, artistic and intellectual potential...for their own benefit...also for the enrichment of society

- **Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty (Irish Legislation)**

- **Currently – we can't offer meaningful support to disabled artists on the same grounds as that offered to non-disabled artists.**

- **This undermines our ability to comply with that Public Sector and Human Rights duty**

Green Paper on Disability Reform

How Artists work

- **Precarious working conditions inherent in the nature of working in the arts**
- **Current Social Welfare Scheme for Professional Artists on Jobseeker's Allowance**
 - allocates a 'status' to artists within the welfare system
 - an acknowledgment by Welfare that work in the arts is characterized by certain challenges that require a specific social welfare response or merit exceptions.
- **A core principle informing more specific asks.**
- **Exempting grants from means testing**
- **Disregard thresholds**
- **Excluding project costs from assessment of means**
- **Flexibility and movement with work patterns**
- **Informing assessments on capacity to work / choice to work in the arts**
- **Potential of Basic Income for the Arts?**

Green Paper on Disability Reform

Have your say

- **Tell us what you think**
- **Make your own submission**
- **Our website has our outline points**
- **Will be reminding via social media channels**
- **Deadline extended to 15 March 2024**

Thanks



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