

# Equality Data & Arts Council Awards

Report on disability, ethnicity and  
gender in individual awards for 2021

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## About this report

The analysis in this report is based on diversity data submitted as part of applications made to the Arts Council and for Arts Council schemes managed by Create and Arts & Disability Ireland in the year 2021. The diversity of applications and awards are compared in terms of disability, ethnicity, gender, and where possible, geographic location. To understand the relative demographic representativeness of applicants and recipients, each of these metrics have been compared (where possible) to the population of Ireland Census 2016.

This report presents a summary of key findings from that analysis.

### Context

In 2019 the Arts Council published its [Equality, Human Rights and Diversity Policy](#), which included a three-year action plan (2019-2021). In the Artists' actions we have committed to collecting more information about the artists that apply for funding and those who receive funding. We have new systems in place to collect information about disability, ethnicity, and gender and have indicated that there will be:

- Reports provided to Policy & Strategy Committee of the Arts Council on statistical data.
- Report on statistics published on Arts Council website annually.

This report is the second annual report covering data collected during the 2021 calendar year. It provides details of all those who applied for and received funding across our Individual Awards (namely Bursaries, Agility Award, Next Generation, Liam O'Flynn Award, and the Markievicz Award). It additionally looks at applicants to specialist schemes operated on our behalf by third parties – the Artist in the Community Scheme managed by Create; and Arts and Disability Connect Scheme managed by Arts & Disability Ireland.

For the most part these awards are focused on the professional development of the artist, thus artists are the applicants and recipients. In some areas, however, the applicant may also be an arts professional in another area (e.g. manager, administrator). The emphasis in this report is on applications that will benefit individuals as opposed to organisations.

## Notes on the data

A total of 6,218 records are included in the analysis (compared to 4,375 in 2020). These are broken down as follows:

Organisation	All applications	Awards	Unsuccessful applications	Ineligible applications
The Arts Council	6,056	2,412	2,738	906
Create	101	34	46	21
Arts and Disability Ireland	61	28	28	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,218</b>	<b>2,474</b>	<b>2,812</b>	<b>932</b>

Regarding response rates, note that 2% of applicants preferred not to answer questions on gender, 3% on ethnicity, and 6% on disability. While higher completion rates would be desirable, the proportions small enough that they are unlikely to affect the overall results.

## Notes on analysis

The 2016 Census data does not include statistics on gender categories, only sex. Therefore where these figures have been included as a comparison, the findings should be considered indicative.

In this report County Dublin includes the four local authority administrative areas of Dublin City, Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin.

## Summary of Findings

### Overall

That analysis looked at the extent to which the following were representative:

- the proportion of applications by group compared to the population
- the proportion of awards compared to the proportion of applications, and
- the value of awards compared to the proportion of applications.

**Note:** the term 'value', as used throughout this report, refers to the financial value of applications. Specifically, the 'value of applications' refers to the amount requested by applicants, while the 'value of awards' refers to the amount of funding applicants received.

The following differences are most pronounced:

**Gender:** There is a higher proportion of both applicants and recipients who identify as female compared to the general population. On average individuals who identify as non-binary apply for and are granted the highest award value.

**Disability:** Individuals who identify as having a disability are under-represented by half amongst applicants and recipients compared to the general population. On average, individuals who answered 'Yes' to having a disability apply for and are granted the lowest award value.

**Ethnicity:** The majority of applicants and recipients identified as White Irish, which is in line with the census 2016 data. The success rate for awards is also highest among applicants from White or White Irish backgrounds. The rate of application and award is lowest among individuals who identify as Other or Mixed, Asian or Asian Irish, Black or Black Irish, or belonging to the Traveller Community.

**Geography:** Dublin was significantly over-represented in terms of proportion of applicants and recipients compared to the population. Cork, Galway, Wicklow, Clare and Sligo were also slightly over-represented in applications.

There was substantial competition for these funding streams, with the following number and values of applications and awards:

Applications:

- 6,218 applications submitted during 2021
- Total value of applications during this period is €57,177,905
- Average value requested is €9,442

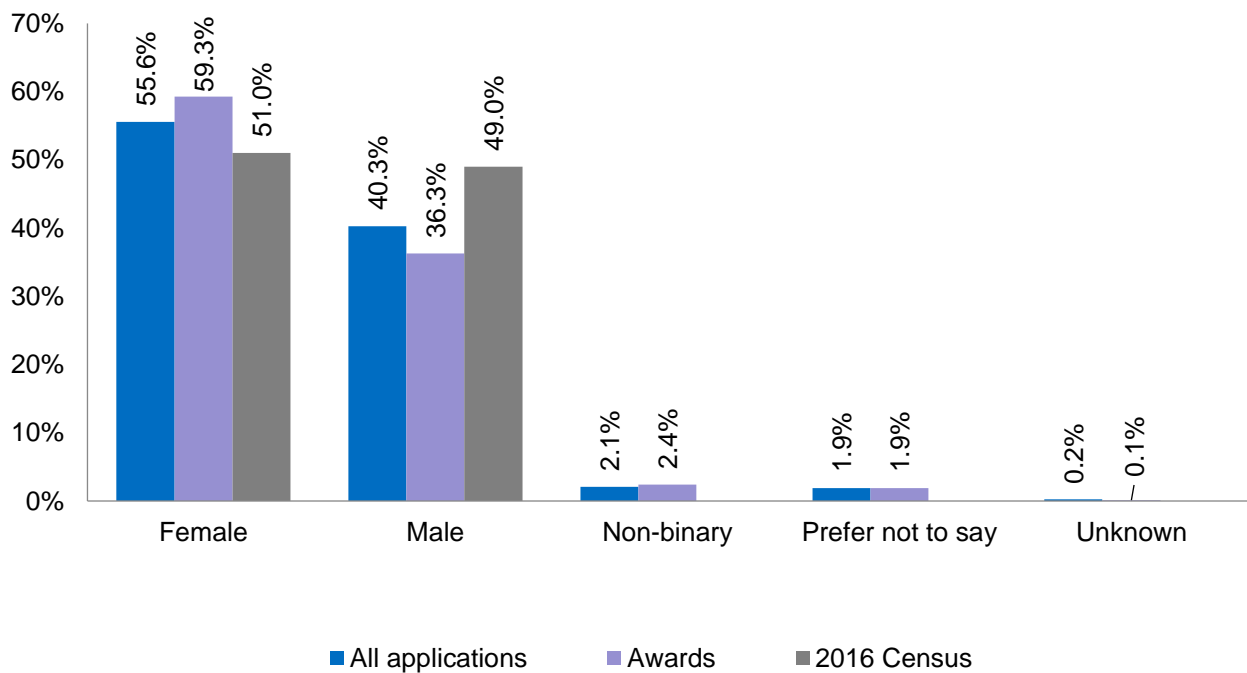
Awards:

- 2,474 awards
- Total value of awards during this period is €18,767,355
- Average value of award is €7,586

## Gender

Amongst both applicants and recipients, individuals who identify as female are slightly over-represented compared to population statistics in the 2016 Census (fig 1)., while individuals who identify as male were under-represented (although these are not directly comparable, as the Census statistics relate to sex instead of gender).

Figure 1: Application and award breakdown by gender



Gender	All applications		Awards	Unsuccessful applications	Ineligible applications	2016 Census
	Count	%	%	%	%	%
Female	3,455	55.6%	59.3%	55.7%	45.5%	51.0%
Male	2,504	40.3%	36.3%	40.4%	50.3%	49.0%
Non-binary	129	2.1%	2.4%	1.7%	2.3%	-
Prefer not to say	116	1.9%	1.9%	2.0%	1.5%	-
Unknown	14	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.4%	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,218</b>		<b>2,474</b>	<b>2,812</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>4,761,865</b>

When looking at the total value of applications made by female, male, and non-binary people, they are broadly proportional to the overall number of applications (fig 2).

- Individuals identifying as non-binary contribute to 2% of the total value of all applications vs 3% of the total value of awards.
- Female applicants contribute to 56% of the total value of all applications vs 59% of the total value of awards.
- Male applicants contribute to 40% of the total value of all applications compared to 36% of the total value of awards.

Figure 2: Proportion of total value by gender

Gender	Proportion of total value of all applications		Proportion of total value of awards	
	Count	%	Count	%
Female	3,455	55.7%	1,466	58.7%
Male	2,504	39.7%	898	36.4%
Non-binary	129	2.4%	60	2.9%
Prefer not to say	116	2.0%	47	1.9%
Unknown	14	0.2%	3	0.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,218</b>		<b>2,474</b>	

When comparing the overall value of awards female, male, and non-binary recipients are also represented in proportion to the overall number of awards granted.

However, when the average value of applications and awards are taken into consideration, on average, non-binary applicants tend to apply for higher amounts, which is then reflected in higher average value of awards granted. (fig. 3):

- The average value of applications made is higher for non-binary applicants (€10,691) compared female (€9,241) or male (€9,065) applicants.
- The average value of awards granted is also higher for non-binary applicants (€9,177), compared to female (€7,509) or male (€7,607) applicants.



Figure 3: Average value by gender

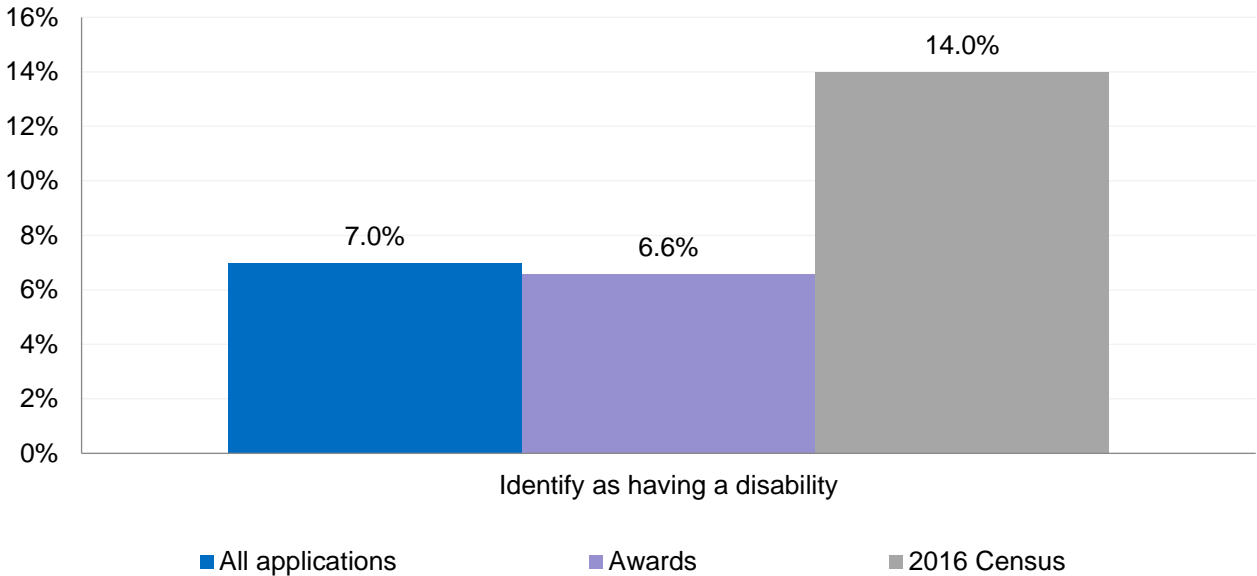
Gender	Count	Average value € of application			Average value € of awards
	All applications	All applications	Unsuccessful applications	Ineligible applications	Awards
Female	3,455	€ 9,241	€ 11,208	€ 7,731	€ 7,509
Male	2,504	€ 9,065	€ 10,547	€ 8,089	€ 7,607
Non-binary	129	€ 10,691	€ 13,641	€ 8,037	€ 9,177
Prefer not to say	116	€ 9,795	€ 12,068	€ 7,751	€ 7,713
Unknown	14	€ 8,308	€ 11,143	€ 3,350	€ 5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,218</b>		<b>2,812</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>2,474</b>

### Disability

Overall, both applicants and recipients who identify as having a disability are under-represented when compared to the population of Ireland as recorded in the 2016 Census.

- Individuals who identify as having a disability are half as prominent amongst applicants (7%) as compared to the census (14%; fig 4).

Figure 4: Application and award breakdown by disability



Disability	All applications		Awards	Unsuccessful applications	Ineligible applications	2016 Census
	Count	%	%	%	%	%
Identify as having a disability	438	7.0%	6.6%	7.5%	6.9%	14.0%
No	5,385	86.6%	87.0%	86.2%	86.6%	-
Prefer not to say	356	5.7%	5.9%	5.6%	5.7%	-
Unknown	39	0.6%	0.5%	0.6%	0.9%	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,218</b>		<b>2,474</b>	<b>2,812</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>4,761,865</b>

When looking at the total value of applications:

- Applications made by individuals who identify as having a disability comprise 6% of the total value of applications vs 6% of the total value of awards (fig 5).

Figure 5: Proportion of value of applications and awards by disability

Disability	Proportion of total value of all applications		Proportion of total value of awards	
	Count	%	Count	%
Identify as having a disability	438	6.5%	163	6.5%
No	5,385	86.8%	2,153	86.9%
Prefer not to say	356	6.0%	145	5.9%
Unknown	39	0.7%	13	0.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,218</b>		<b>2,474</b>	

- The average value of applications made by individuals identifying as having a disability is lower than individuals who do not (€8,468 vs €9,225) (fig 6).
- The average value of awards granted to individuals who identify as having a disability is similar to applicants who do not identify as having a disability (€7,426 vs €7,578). The gap has narrowed since the last report published in 2021.

Figure 6: Average value by disability

Disability	Count	Average value € of application			Average value € of awards
	All applications	All applications	Unsuccessful applications	Ineligible applications	Awards
Identify as having a disability	438	€ 8,468	€ 9,769	€ 6,807	€ 7,426
No	5,385	€ 9,225	€ 11,048	€ 7,930	€ 7,578
Prefer not to say	356	€ 9,678	€ 11,672	€ 8,954	€ 7,639
Unknown	39	€ 11,134	€ 12,877	€ 7,717	€ 10,299
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,218</b>		<b>2,812</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>2,474</b>

### Arts and Disability Connect scheme

A total of €116,091 has been distributed through this scheme to all applicants who identify as having a disability (this accounted for 10% of the total value of awards to recipients with a disability: €1,210,498 overall).

Female applicants who identify as having a disability were granted the highest values, followed by male applicants, and then non-binary applicants under this scheme.

### Ethnicity

Individuals from a white background were disproportionately represented in both applicants and recipients of awards.

White or White Irish background applicants made up 91% of applications and 92% of awards. When compared to the population of Ireland, as seen in the 2016 Census, this is proportionally similar to the national profile. However, Irish Traveller (0.4%) and Asian or Asian Irish (1.3%) are under-represented in the application profile compared to the Census (fig 7).

Figure 7: Application and award breakdown by ethnicity

Ethnicity	All applications		Awards	Unsuccessful applications	Ineligible applications	2016 Census
	Count	%	%	%	%	%
White Irish	4,945	79.5%	80.1%	79.4%	78.4%	82.2%
White - Any Other White background	709	11.4%	11.2%	12.3%	9.0%	9.5%
Other or Mixed	94	1.5%	1.6%	1.4%	1.7%	1.5%
Black or Black Irish	116	1.9%	1.5%	1.4%	4.5%	1.4%
Asian or Asian Irish	83	1.3%	1.5%	1.2%	1.3%	2.1%
Irish Traveller	22	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%	0.7%
Unknown	55	0.9%	0.6%	0.9%	1.4%	2.6%
Prefer not to say	194	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%	3.2%	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,218</b>		<b>2,474</b>	<b>2,812</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>4,689,921</b>

- Applications made by individuals who identify as White Irish contribute to 80% of the total value of applications and 80% of the total value of awards.
- The average value of applications from the White Irish community is €9,223, whilst the average value of awards is €7,626 (fig 8).
- The highest average value of applications is from individuals who identify as Other or Mixed ethnicity (€10,717), whilst the average award value granted to them is €7,340.
- The highest average award value granted is to individuals who identify as belonging to the Irish Traveller community at €12,688.

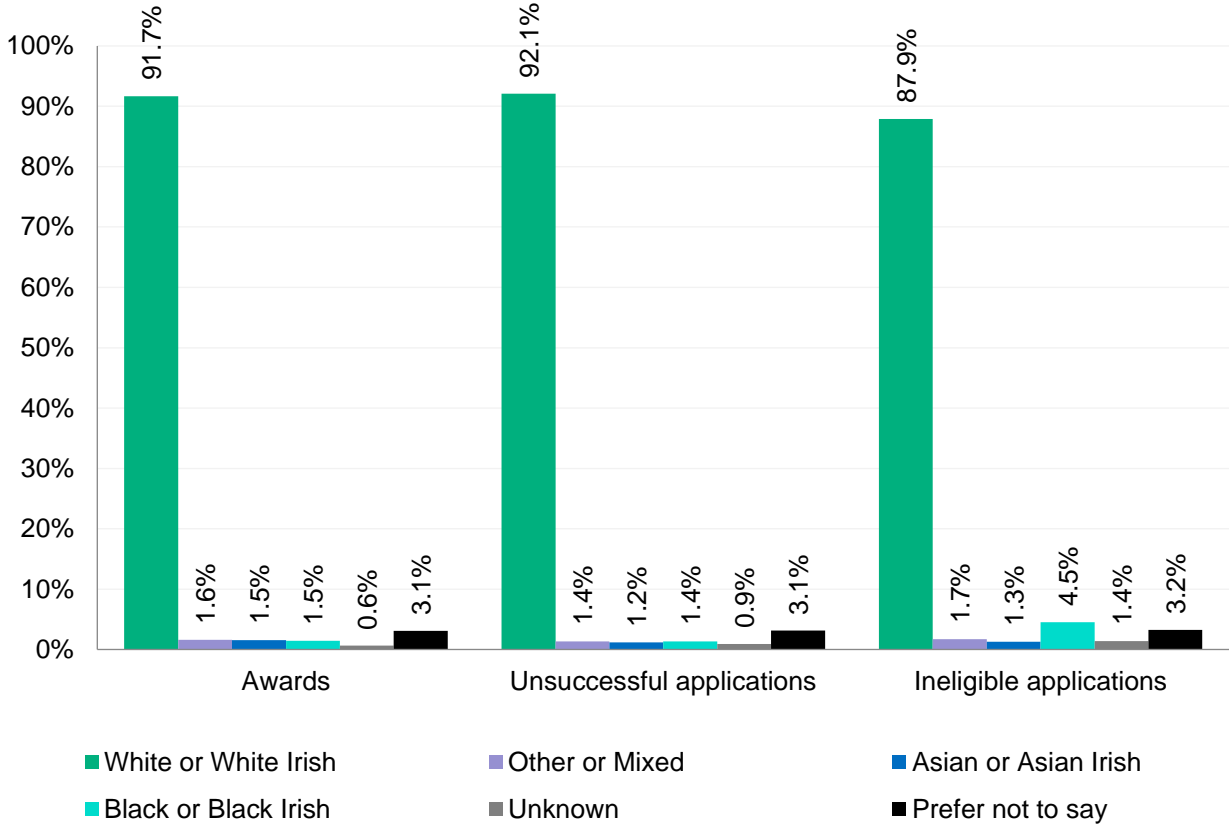
Figure 8: Average value by ethnicity

Ethnicity	Count	Average value € of application			Average value € of awards
	All applications	All applications	Unsuccessful applications	Ineligible applications	Awards
White Irish	4,945	€ 9,223	€ 11,019	€ 7,925	€ 7,620
White - Any Other White background	709	€ 9,059	€ 10,787	€ 6,863	€ 7,514
Other or Mixed	94	€ 10,717	€ 13,140	€ 8,022	€ 7,340
Black or Black Irish - African	80	€ 9,881	€ 12,184	€ 9,063	€ 7,577
Asian or Asian Irish - Any Other Asian background	65	€ 6,810	€ 6,543	€ 3,047	€ 4,239
Asian or Asian Irish - Chinese	18	€ 6,496	€ 7,733	€ 4,002	€ 6,089
Black or Black Irish - Any other Black background	36	€ 7,933	€ 4,581	€ 6,992	€ 4,586
Irish Traveller	22	€ 9,747	€ 6,997	€ 8,375	€ 12,688
Unknown	55	€ 8,533	€ 10,330	€ 4,497	€ 8,389
Prefer not to say	194	€ 9,447	€ 11,600	€ 9,434	€ 6,874
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,218</b>		<b>2,812</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>2,474</b>

When comparing success rates across different ethnic groups, the highest is among applicants from White or White Irish backgrounds with 91% of applications resulting in an award. All other ethnic backgrounds have a proportionally low success rate, which is circa 1% across the board for all Other or Mixed, Asian or Asian Irish, and Black or Black Irish (fig. 9).

County Dublin received the highest number of applications and awards from individuals who identify as Other or Mixed, Asian or Asian Irish, and Black or Black Irish.

Figure 9: Application outcome by ethnicity



Ethnicity	All applications		Awards	Unsuccessful applications	Ineligible applications
	Count	%	%	%	%
White or White Irish	5,676	91.3%	91.7%	92.1%	87.9%
Other or Mixed	94	1.5%	1.6%	1.4%	1.7%
Asian or Asian Irish	83	1.3%	1.5%	1.2%	1.3%
Black or Black Irish	116	1.9%	1.5%	1.4%	4.5%
Unknown	55	0.9%	0.6%	0.9%	1.4%
Prefer not to say	194	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%	3.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,218</b>		<b>2,474</b>	<b>2,812</b>	<b>932</b>

## Geography

In 2021 the three most prominent counties, in terms of both applications and awards, were: Dublin<sup>1</sup>, Cork and Galway. More specifically, 58% of all applications and 61% of all awards came from one of these three counties.

- The highest proportion of applications and awards originate from County Dublin, making up 39% of all applications and 42% of all awards. This is an over-representation compared to the proportion of the population of Ireland who live in County Dublin (28%, fig. 10).
- Applications from County Dublin make up 39% of the total value of applications and 42% of the total value of awards.
- The average value of applications from Dublin is €9,210, whilst the average value of awards is €7,727.

Dublin is the county most over-represented in terms of the proportion of applicants compared to the proportion of the population. Cork, Galway, Wicklow, Clare and Sligo are also slightly over-represented, while the remaining 20 counties are under-represented.

When comparing the percentage of awards to the percentage of applications, 6 counties are over-represented (including Dublin, Cork, Galway, Wicklow, Limerick and Tipperary), while 20 are under-represented.

Figure 10: Application and award breakdown by geography

Area	All applications		Awards	Unsuccessful applications	Ineligible applications	2016 Census
	Count	%	%	%	%	%
Co. Carlow	45	0.7%	0.9%	0.5%	0.8%	1.0%
Co. Cavan	60	1.0%	0.6%	1.1%	1.5%	2.0%
Co. Clare	181	2.9%	2.1%	3.3%	3.8%	2.0%
Co. Cork	725	11.7%	11.4%	12.8%	9.1%	11.0%
Co. Donegal	172	2.8%	2.3%	3.2%	2.6%	3.0%
Co. Dublin	2,403	38.6%	41.8%	35.7%	39.3%	28.0%
Co. Galway	469	7.5%	8.1%	7.4%	6.4%	5.0%
Co. Kerry	145	2.3%	1.9%	2.6%	2.8%	3.0%

Co. Kildare	173	2.8%	2.5%	2.9%	3.2%	5.0%
Co. Kilkenny	94	1.5%	1.7%	1.4%	1.6%	2.0%
Co. Laois	36	0.6%	0.4%	0.8%	0.4%	2.0%
Co. Leitrim	66	1.1%	1.1%	1.0%	1.3%	1.0%
Co. Limerick	204	3.3%	3.5%	2.8%	4.1%	4.0%
Co. Longford	26	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%	1.0%
Co. Louth	85	1.4%	1.5%	1.3%	1.3%	3.0%
Co. Mayo	124	2.0%	1.7%	2.5%	1.3%	3.0%
Co. Meath	142	2.3%	1.9%	2.4%	2.9%	4.0%
Co. Monaghan	45	0.7%	0.6%	0.8%	0.9%	1.0%
Co. Offaly	25	0.4%	0.3%	0.5%	0.5%	2.0%
Co. Roscommon	52	0.8%	0.9%	0.7%	1.1%	1.0%
Co. Sligo	149	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%	2.5%	1.0%
Co. Tipperary	92	1.5%	1.7%	1.4%	1.2%	3.0%
Co. Waterford	100	1.6%	1.2%	1.8%	2.0%	2.0%
Co. Westmeath	65	1.0%	0.8%	1.3%	1.0%	2.0%
Co. Wexford	146	2.3%	2.5%	2.3%	2.0%	3.0%
Co. Wicklow	263	4.2%	3.8%	4.6%	4.4%	3.0%
International	32	0.5%	0.4%	0.6%	0.8%	-
Unknown	99	1.6%	1.8%	1.6%	0.9%	1.0%
<b>Total</b>		<b>6,218</b>	<b>2,474</b>	<b>2,812</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>4,689,921</b>

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<sup>1</sup> In this report Country Dublin includes Dublin City, Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin



## Data Comparison 2020 – 2021

### Total Applications and Awards

Applications	2020	2021	% Change
Total Applications	4,375	6,218	+ 42%
Total Value of Applications	€37,137,025	€57,177,905	+54%
Average Value of Request	€8,549	€9,442	+10%

Awards	2020	2021	% Change
Total Applications	1,788	2,474	+38%
Total Value of Awards	€11,594,070	€18,767,355	+62%
Average Value of Awards	€6,550	€7,586	+16%

### Gender

Applications	2020	2021	% Change	2016 Census
Female	55%	56%	+1%	51.0%
Male	41%	40%	-1%	49.0%
Non-binary	1%	2%	+1%	-
Prefer not to say	2%	1%	-1%	-

Awards	2020	2021	% Change	2016 Census
Female	59%	59%	=	51.0%
Male	37%	36%	-1%	49.0%
Non-binary	2%	2%	=	-
Prefer not to say	2%	2%	=	-

## Disability

Applications	2020	2021	% Change	2016 Census
Yes	7%	7%	=	14%
No	87%	87%	=	-
Prefer not to say	5%	6%	+1%	-

Awards	2020	2021	% Change	2016 Census
Yes	5%	7%	+2%	14%
No	88%	87%	-1%	-
Prefer not to say	5%	6%	+1%	-

## Ethnicity

Applications	2020	2021	% Change	2016 Census
White Irish	77%	79%	+2%	82.2%
White - Any Other White background	11%	11%	=	9.5%
Other or Mixed	2%	1.5%	-0.5%	1.5%
Black or Black Irish	1.2%	1.9%	+0.7%	1.4%
Asian or Asian Irish	1.3%	1.3%	=	2.1%
Irish Traveller	0.1%	0.4%	+0.3%	0.7%
Unknown	3%	0.9%	-2.1%	2.6%
Prefer not to say	4%	3.1%	-0.9%	-

Awards	2020	2021	% Change	2016 Census
White Irish	78%	80%	+2%	82.2%
White - Any Other White background	11%	11%	=	9.5%
Other or Mixed	2%	1.6%	-0.4%	1.5%
Black or Black Irish	0.6%	1.5%	+0.9%	1.4%
Asian or Asian Irish	1.2%	1.5%	+0.3%	2.1%
Irish Traveller	0%	0.4%	+0.4%	0.7%
Unknown	3%	0.6%	-2.4%	2.6%
Prefer not to say	4%	3.1%	-0.9%	-

