

Governance Transparency Scale for organisations in receipt of recurring Arts Council funding

The need for additional transparency is becoming increasingly evident. Transparency, whilst linked to governance is a separate function. An organisation could have exemplary governance, but if that isn't transparent it undermines its credibility.

This is especially true at present when public confidence needs to be rebuilt in the charity sector. Therefore rather than relying on current company law to present governance information to the public, it is important that key information about the organisation is presented through its website.

The Arts Council has adapted the Boardmatch Ireland Governance Transparency Scale, which ranks the level of transparency, as in the level of corporate information that is placed on an organisation's website.

The Council now requires all organisations that it funds on a recurring basis (RFO, Annual Funding, Annual Programming Grants) to comply with the standards set out as follows.

Organisation	Information to be provided on the website
<p><i>For organisations in receipt of recurring finding of €100,000 or above per annum</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The names of all the current board members • The date the board members were appointed • A biography of each of the board members • A copy of most recent accounts • A commitment to comply with the recommended guidelines for financial reporting • The disclosure in bands of €10k of senior staff remuneration packages • A commitment to comply or implement the Code of Governance • A commitment to comply with the principles of good fundraising • An explanation or list of members • The Articles and Memorandum of Association
<p><i>For organisations in receipt of recurring finding less than €100,000</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The names of all the current board members • A biography of each of the board members • A copy of most recent Accounts • A commitment to comply with the Charity Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) where appropriate • A commitment to comply or implement the Code of Governance

Note: compliance with this will be checked in the form of a letter from the Chairman of the board of organisations confirming that the principles have been adhered to. The final 10% of funding for 2015 will not be released until confirmation of this has been received.