



From: The Minister

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Our ref: AQW 21994/22-27
Date: 31 March 2025

Joanne Bunting MLA,
Room 310,
Parliament Buildings,
Stormont,
Belfast.
BT4 3XX

Via email: joanne.bunting@mla.niassembly.gov.uk

Dear Joanne,

AQW 21994/22-27: To ask the Minister for Communities in relation to each of the arm's-length bodies overseen by his Department, to detail (i) the number of cases of suspected fraud identified from 1 January 2021 to date; (ii) the value of those suspected fraud cases; (iii) the number of those cases which resulted in prosecution; (iv) the number of convictions secured as a result of the prosecutions; (v) the amount of money recovered in respect of those cases; (vi) the estimated net loss to the public purse of those cases; and (vii) the total amount of grants issued by each of the organisations in the period.

Due to the large volume of detail required to provide an answer to your question, I have arranged for this to be placed in the Assembly Library.

Yours sincerely,

**Gordon Lyons MLA
Minister for Communities**

Annex A

This issue is an operational matter for a number of Arm Lengths Bodies.

I have sought the requested information from the Chief Executive, who has advised me as follows:

“information provided in the table below”

ANNEX A

Name of ALB	(i) No of cases of suspected fraud identified from 1 January 2021 to date	(ii) The value of those suspected fraud cases	(iii) The no of those cases which resulted in prosecution	(iv) The no of convictions secured as a result of the prosecutions	(v) The amount of money recovered in respect of those cases	(vi) The estimated net loss to the public purse of those cases	(vii) The total amount of grants issued by each of the organisations in the period
Armagh Observatory & Planetarium	0						0
Arts Council for Northern Ireland	3	£30,800	0	0	£0 to date	Unknown as one case remains open	£102,091,301
Charity Commission for Northern Ireland	0						0
Commissioner for Older People Northern Ireland	0						0

Foras na Gaeilge	1	£4,600	0	0	£0	Unknown as case remains open	ROI & NI) £35,218,228 (NI only @ 25%) £8,905,282
Libraries Northern Ireland	1	£27	0	0	£27	£0	0
Local Government Staff Commission for Northern Ireland	0						0
National Museums Northern Ireland	0						0
Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children & Young People	1	£1,000	0	0	£0	£1,000	0
Northern Ireland Housing Executive	30	£33,133	1	1	Where applicable, financial recovery initiated.	A number of cases remain open.	£368,223,000

Northern Ireland Museums Council	1	£4,875	0	0	£0	£0 – Fraud case was attempted but prevented.	£185,513.28
Northern Ireland Local Government Officers Superannuation Committee	2	£16,754	0	0	c.£7k recovered to date with plan in place to recover the vast majority of monies lost.	Recovery plan in place to recover the vast majority of monies lost.	0
Sport NI	0						£65,069,955
Ulster Scots Agency	2	£7,110	0	0	£7,110	£0	(ROI & NI) £6,689,457 (NI only @ 75%) £5,017,093
Ulster Supported Employment Limited (USEL)	1	£200	0	0	£0	£200	0

For any future queries relating to operational matters, you may wish to contact all of the Arm Lengths bodies directly. Making direct contact with the ALB will ensure that you receive the information in the shortest possible timeframe and make best use of public resources