

Explanatory notes on Public Funding to Culture (PF2C) dataset

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This note provides details on the Public Funding to Culture (PF2C) data set, resulting from the data collection and analysis of different sources of public funding to cultural activities and services, as of 3rd November 2022. Please note this data set does not account for all possible sources of public funding to culture. For further analysis from this data set please see [this blog](#) by Salvatore Di Novo and Eliza Easton.

Please refer to the links reported in this document for additional details regarding each source of funding.

1. Grant-in-aid from national funders

1.1 Arts Council England (ACE) grant-in-aid funding data refer to the overall amount funded by ACE other than National Lottery distribution funds, and are considered net of the Culture Recovery Fund (CRF), which is considered separately (see section 1.4). Grant-in-aid figures also include funding received from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sports (DCMS) restricted to specific purposes (like the Cultural Development Fund for the financial year 2019/20). Both grant-in-aid and national lottery amounts refer to the net annual awards made by ACE and are obtained from ACE annual reports (available [here](#)).¹

1.2 British Library, Historic England, DCMS sponsored museums, Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLAC) grant-in-aid figures refer to funding devolved by DCMS and are directly obtained from DCMS' Annual Report and Accounts documents (accessed through the [UK Government website](#)). 2020/21 figures for Historic England also consist of funding directly to the Cultural Recovery Fund (CRF) (see [DCMS Annual Report and Accounts 2020/21](#)). The 15 DCMS sponsored museums and galleries are: the British Museum, the Museum of the Home², the Horniman Public Museum and Public Park Trust, the Imperial War Museum, the National Gallery, the National Maritime Museum, the National Museums Liverpool, the National Portrait Gallery, the National History Museum, the Royal Armouries Museum, the Science Museum Group (SMG), the Sir John Soane's Museum, the Tate Gallery, the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Wallace Collection. Before 2011/12 figures were also separately available for the Museum of Science & Industry in Manchester, now part of the SMG. Also, MLAC grant-in-aid figures are available till 2012/13, following liquidation of the council on 6th July 2012 ([DCMS Annual Report and Accounts 2011-12](#)).

1.3 Heritage Fund (HF) grant-in-aid consists of funding operations carried out through the National Heritage Memorial Fund (NHMF) direct funding and the distribution of national lottery money (NLHF) devolved to HF from DCMS. Both NHMF and NLHF annual figures refer to net new grant awards and are obtained from the separate annual reports (accessible [here](#) and [here](#)). NHMF annual grants are considered net of the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund (LPOWRRF) awards made within each year. Also, note that 2020/21 NHMF figures do not account for CRF devolved to the NHMF, which is treated separately (see section 1.4). Also, both NHMF and NLHF figures available from the annual reports currently

¹ For sake of completeness, please note that the Cultural Investment Fund (which also includes subsequent rounds of the Cultural Development Fund) is not considered in this analysis, as it was effectively in place from the financial year 2021/22 (see [here](#)).

² Formerly known as the Geffrye Museum.

refer to the United Kingdom devolved Nations. However, we have also computed implied NLHF figures for England. These are obtained by scaling down the annual figures obtained from NLHF accounts by England's share of NLHF resulting from [National Lottery Grants](#) data (circa 80% of total amounts to the UK devolved Nations).

1.4 Culture Recovery Fund (CRF) amounts considered here refer to the amounts administered by ACE and NHMF as directly reported in their annual reports (available [here](#) and [here](#), respectively). The amounts refer to the 2020/21 financial year, following the setting of the fund by the UK government in July 2020.

2. Local government expenditure³

2.1 Local government capital expenditure data refer to spending from local authorities in England in relation to "... the acquisition or maintenance of fixed assets such as land, building, vehicles, machinery etc.". Annual expenditure figures are available on aggregate for "Culture and heritage" services category and can be accessed [here](#).

2.2 Local government revenue expenditure data refer to spending from local authorities in England in relation to "... costs of staffing, heating, lighting and cleaning, together with expenditure on goods and services consumed within the year". Annual expenditure figures are obtained by aggregating total expenditure on the following categories: Archives, Arts development and support, Heritage, Museums and Galleries, Theatre public entertainment, Library service. They can be accessed [here](#).

3. Tax reliefs

Theatre, Orchestra, Museums and Galleries exhibition (TOM) tax reliefs data, are obtained from the Creative Industries Annual Tax relief statistics, and are available [here](#). Annual figures are considered on a receipt basis, that is with reference to the year payments were made. They are reported from the first available year following the introduction in 2014, 2016, 2017 for Theatre, Orchestra and Museums and Galleries exhibition categories, respectively, and are available on an aggregate basis for all United Kingdom devolved Nations. Also, note that 2017/18 figures for Orchestra combine 2017/18 and 2016/17 figures.

4. Total PF2C

The total amount of public funds to culture here considered stems from summing the expenditure main categories described above, where a distinction is made for 2020/21 in considering expenditure totals net and inclusive of the CRF amounts administered by ACE and NHMF.

5. Nominal and deflated figures

Expenditure categories are considered both in nominal and inflation adjusted terms. The latter are obtained from nominal figures using the GDP deflator as of 22 December 2021 (available [here](#)). The GDP deflator used here is consistent with usage made in the other official statistics, such as *Local government revenue expenditure* considered above (see, for instance, [here](#)).

³ Local government expenditure data considered here reflect the latest update figures and should thus give the best level of accuracy. It should be noted that they may be subject to further updates subsequent to this publication.

6. List of other acronyms and abbreviations in the data

gia: grant-in-aid

texp: total expenditure

taxr: tax reliefs

nolib: no libraries

britlib: british library

Whilst any mistakes in this blog and data set are our own, there are many people to whom we owe a debt of gratitude in helping us to bring this piece of work to completion. These include colleagues at Arts Council England, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and the Arts and Humanities Research Council, as well as critical friends from across the research and arts sectors, including PEC colleagues.