



---

**With reference to the Arts Funding for 2018, Grant Reference 2018/014**

---

At its February meeting the Council approved Report No 4/2018: '**Arts Funding for 2018 (Arts Act 2003)**' with the exception of grant reference No. 2018/014 in the amount of €3,000.

As the arts project to be partially funded by this grant was intended to feature a prominent politician, a concern was raised as to whether in recommending this grant the legal obligation on officials to act at all times with impartiality and in a politically neutral way had been observed in this instance. I undertook to examine the matter and to report back to the Council.

The particular arts project is entitled '**One Hundred Years**'. It involves a video portrait of Senator Ivana Bacik, which will be filmed on 14 December 2018 – the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women suffrage in Ireland. It will be filmed in the Round Room. The video portrait will be digitally conserved for 10 years on behalf of the Council until a joint decision is made by the artist and the Arts Office that it is appropriate for it to be exhibited.

The artist Amanda Dunsmore has a well establish reputation for working in art processes that explore representations of society's transformation through portraiture. An exhibition, entitled **Keeper**, by the artist is due to open in the Dublin City Gallery – The Hugh Lane in April 2018.

I have reviewed the particular application and the adjudication process that led to it's being recommended for an Arts grant. I am satisfied with the independence and objectivity of the adjudication process. As Senator Bacik is chair of the Oireachtas Votáil 100 Committee, which is organising celebrations around the 2018 centenary of women's suffrage in Ireland, I am also satisfied that there was a valid basis for her selection to represent current female members of the Oireachtas.

Having considered the matter, I recommend that Members endorse the award of a grant of €3,000 in respect of this project.

**Owen P Keegan**  
Chief Executive

**Dated 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018**