



Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru  
Arts Council of Wales

# Arts Portfolio Wales Survey 2019/20:

Key Findings from the 1st April 2019 to the 30th September 2019.

21 May 2020

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## Introduction

This report summarises the findings for the first half of the 2019/20 Arts Portfolio Wales Survey. The APW Survey is a bi-annual survey of all Arts Portfolio Wales funded organisations who are required to complete the survey as part of their funding agreement. There are currently 67 organisations in receipt of grant in aid funding.

The survey primarily collects data on the number of arts events and participatory sessions delivered and attendances made to these activities across the portfolio.

## Key results for the first half of the 2019/20 year: 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018<sup>1</sup>

During the six-month period (1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019):

- Arts Portfolio Wales Organisations delivered a total of 9,678 arts events during the six-month period, which generated attendances of 2.3 million.
- The events delivered during this time period included 243 exhibitions of visual arts and craft, 6,734 film screenings, 1,162 performances by touring companies and 1,539 performances at presenting venues.
- The highest levels of attendances were made to exhibitions of visual arts and crafts which received a total of 1,486,215 attendances. Performances at presenting venues attracted 410,682 attendances, 224,729 at film screenings attendances and 193,371 attendances were made to performances by touring companies.
- 35,543 participatory arts sessions were delivered during the first six months of 2019/20, with 398,859 participants.
- Of the total participatory art sessions delivered, 28,463 were specifically for children and young people, while 7,080 were delivered as general participatory sessions.
- There were 274,871 attendances to participatory sessions targeted at children and young people, while general participatory activity sessions generated attendance of 123,988.

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<sup>1</sup> Please note Employment Data is only collected annually and will therefore only be included in the full year's report.

## Comparisons with the same period of the previous year

The following findings compare the data from the latest six-month period against the same period in the previous year (1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018). While comparisons have been made between the two datasets, fluctuations in the data would be expected due to changes in organisations' programmes of activity as well as other influencing factors.

The comparisons between the two datasets show:

- In terms of events, there has been a -0.6% decrease in the total number of events compared to the same reporting period for 2018/19, decreasing from 9,738 to 9,678.
- While the number of events decreased in the first 6 months of 2019/20, the total number of attendances to events have increased by almost a quarter (24.0%) compared to the previous year. The latest survey returns show arts events received attendances of 2.3 million compared with 1.87 million in the previous year.
- Attendance to visual arts and craft exhibitions make up almost two thirds (64.2%) of all attendances in the first half of 2019/20, 1.5 million in total. This is an increase of 51.4% when compared to the previous year. This can be attributed to significant increases in attendance at 4 portfolio organisations.
- Attendances to performances at presenting venues has decreased by -5.4% (from 434,182 to 410,682), there was also a decrease of a fifth (-20.0%) in the number of performances at presenting venues. Similarly, the number of performances by touring companies decreased by -4.9%, while the number of attendances to these performances decreased by almost a fifth (-19.6%). In terms of film, both the number of screenings and attendances experienced an increase from the previous year, screenings up by 6.4% and attendances up by 6.8% to 224,729.
- Overall participatory sessions in the arts have increased by 29.2% from the same reporting period in the previous year, up from 27,501 to 35,543 sessions in the latest survey. However, the number of participants at these sessions decreased by -14.3% from 465,292 to 398,859.
- Participatory sessions targeted at Children and Young People increased by 66.1% when compared to the same period last year (from 17,140 to 28,463), whilst attendances to these sessions decreased by -7.6% (from 297,442 to 274,871).

- The number of General Participatory Activity Sessions not specifically targeted at Children and Young People have decreased by almost a third (-31.7%) when compared to the same period last year (10,361 to 7,080). Attendances to these sessions have also experienced a decrease of over a quarter (-26.1%) from 167,850 to 123,988.

## Frequency

This survey is conducted every 6 months.

## Terms and Definitions

**Participation** is defined as active involvement in the arts, such as attending workshops, classes or rehearsals.

**Attendance** is defined as experiencing the arts as an audience member.

The number of **attendances** represents the total number of audience visits or the number of participations. That is, they are not unique visitors; an individual can attend or participate more than once.

A participatory **session** is defined as a half day or less.

**General participatory activity** sessions are available to all.

**Protected Characteristics** include the following groups of people: disabled people, people from a BME background, children and young people, lesbian, gay or bisexual people, pregnant women and new mothers, people with specific religious beliefs and transgender people as defined by the Equality Act 2010. The groups are not mutually exclusive and therefore people can be included in more than one group.

**Presenting venues** is a term used to include theatres, arts centres, concert halls or other spaces where arts performances are presented.

A **touring company** produces a show (drama, dance, music, etc.) for performance at a venue or a range of venues.

**Children and young people** are defined as those aged under 26 years.



## Appendix

Table 1

Attendance	1 <sup>st</sup> April to 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	
	Events	Attendances
Exhibitions	243	1,486,215
Film Screenings	6,734	224,729
Performances by Touring Companies	1,162	193,371
Performances at Presenting Venues	1,539	410,682
<b>Total Attendances</b>	<b>9,678</b>	<b>2,314,997</b>

Source: ACW survey of Arts Portfolio Wales organisations

Base: 67 organisations

Table 2

Participation	1 <sup>st</sup> April to 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	
	Sessions	Attendances at Participatory events
Children & Young People	28,463	274,871
General Participatory Activity	7,080	123,988
<b>Total Participation</b>	<b>35,543</b>	<b>398,859</b>

Source: ACW survey of Arts Portfolio Wales organisations

Base: 67 organisations

Table 3

Attendance	1 <sup>st</sup> April to 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2018		1 <sup>st</sup> April to 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2019		% Change	
	Events	Attendances	Events	Attendances	Events	Attendances
Exhibitions	266	981,707	243	1,486,215	-8.6	51.4
Film Screenings	6,327	210,367	6,734	224,729	6.4	6.8
Performances by Touring Companies	1,222	240,373	1,162	193,371	-4.9	-19.6
Performances at Presenting Venues	1,923	434,182	1,539	410,682	-20.0	-5.4
<b>Total Attendances</b>	<b>9,738</b>	<b>1,866,629</b>	<b>9,678</b>	<b>2,314,997</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>24.0</b>

Source: ACW survey of Arts Portfolio Wales organisations

Base: 67 organisations

Table 4

Participation	1 <sup>st</sup> April to 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2018		1 <sup>st</sup> April to 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2019		% Change	
	Sessions	Attendances at Participatory events	Sessions	Attendances at Participatory events	Sessions	Attendances at Participatory events
Children & Young People	17,140	297,442	28,463	274,871	66.1	-7.6
General Participatory Activity	10,361	167,850	7,080	123,988	-31.7	-26.1
<b>Total Participation</b>	<b>27,501</b>	<b>465,292</b>	<b>35,543</b>	<b>398,859</b>	<b>29.2</b>	<b>-14.3</b>

Source: ACW survey of Arts Portfolio Wales organisations

Base: 67 organisations