



Subject:	Request for use of City Hall grounds – Belfast Photo Festival Photographic Exhibition in June 2025
Date:	24 January 2025
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Aisling Milliken, Functions and Exhibition Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.	
Insert number <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Information relating to any individual2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime	
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
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1.1	To consider a request from Belfast Photo Festival for the use of City Hall grounds from 9 to 30 June 2025 to host a photographic exhibition. This is an annual exhibition which has been held in the grounds in previous years.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Authorise Belfast Photo Festival to use City Hall grounds from 9 to 30 June 2025 to display a photographic exhibition as part of the Belfast Photo Festival. 2. Authorise the exhibition in line with similar events previously approved by Council.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Background Information</u></p> <p>Members will be aware that requests for the use of City Hall are normally dealt with under the authority delegated by the Committee to the Director of Legal and Civic Services using criteria agreed for this purpose. Occasionally however, it is necessary to place such requests directly before the Committee, and the request set out below falls into this category.</p> <p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>3.2 The organiser of the Belfast Photo Festival (BPF) has asked to place a photographic exhibition in the grounds of the City Hall from 9 – 30 June 2025. Exhibition content is placed around the perimeter of the West and East Lawn allowing for other events to be hosted and the lawns to remain available for recreational use.</p> <p>3.3 The theme for the 2025 Photo Festival exhibition is Climate and Environment and will delve into photography’s power to capture and reflect the changing environment and its impact on the world around us.</p> <p>3.4 There will be 6 exhibition framework structures installed on the perimeter of the West & East Lawn of City Hall grounds on 9 June and dismantled on 30 June 2025. It would be free for members of the public to view daily in line with the opening times of the grounds.</p> <p>3.5 Belfast Photo Festival have a dedicated Front of House Team who will be roaming throughout their open-air public exhibitions across the city. They will engage with visitors/ publics to talk about the work, as well as ensure any maintenance, graffiti or other issues arising.</p> <p>3.6 Good Relations and Corporate Communications will review the exhibition images included in the proposal but presently no negative good relations implications identified that should stop the exhibition being hosted at City Hall. A copy of the exhibition proposal is included in Appendix 1.</p>

3.7	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no direct resource implications in terms of staff time or additional costs associated with this request and hosting of the exhibition.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>Good Relations will be consulted on this request and the exhibition content, but don't foresee any negative implications.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents attached
	Appendix 1 - Exhibition Proposal artwork and site map in City Hall grounds