

Anything to Declare Derry 2026 commissioning brief.

Commission Brief

We wish to engage a Derry based composer/musician/vocal artist to create and perform a 21 minute contemporary creative composition presenting a reflection on the 1921 establishment of the border on the island of Ireland: the historical context, contemporary resonance and cultural impact.

The commission will be presented as part of Dylan Quinn Dance Theatre's project "Anything to Declare" in association with Féile Derry in August 2026.

The artistic commission will be created as an independent piece of work however will form part of the established performance programme Anything to Declare. The artist will work independently but may collaborate with other artists at their discretion.

The commissioned artist will engage with DQDT Artistic Director Dylan Quinn who will support the artist in addressing the commissions brief and requirements. The manner in which the final commission will be presented will be decided upon by the artist in consultation with DQDT.

Context performance:

"Anything to Declare" 2026 is a re-staging and reimagining of DQDT'S 2024 ambitious creative project "Anything to Declare" with a new and unique Derry voice integrated.

In 2024, Anything to Declare was presented in the village of Swanlinbar on the Cavan Fermanagh border across several locations throughout the village. The original project included an artistic residency and a series of contemporary performances/presentations.

In 2026 Anything to Declare Derry will be presented across 4 locations in close proximity to the historic Walls of the city. Audiences will experience one piece at a time processioning along, over and under the walls to experience 5 pieces of contemporary performance/art work in one evening.

Commission Fee:

The complete budget for the commission will be £4000 to include all fees, travel and associated costs.

Technical requirements for the presentation of the final produced work will be discussed with AD Dylan Quinn in good time to ensure that any additional requirements maybe addressed.

A small technical budget will be available to be discussed at a later stage.

Timeline:

The commission will require the artist to be resident in Derry and to be available for the presentation of the work on the 13 & 14 August (venue to be confirmed).

The successful artist will be informed of their commission by the 31st of May.

First drafts of the commission will be required by the end June with further drafts by the end of July as well as technical requirements.

The completed piece of work will be required in full by the 7th of August 2026

Application process:

Applicants must have professional experience and submit a CV alongside an application statement of 500 words or less.

Please include:

What your commission proposal is.

Why you are interested in making the work.

How you propose to do it.

Who you propose to work with if anyone else (there is no requirement to do so)

Please submit this by the end of the working day on 26 of May via email to admin@dylanquinndance.org with Anything to Declare 2026 commission in the subject line.

This commission is funded by the Lottery through the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and is being presented as part of Dylan Quinn Dance Theatre's Anything to Declare in association with Féile Derry 2026.

Dylan Quinn
Dance Theatre

Féile 2026



LOTTERY FUNDED