



Costing Analysis on Culture Card for Young People

09 September 2024

Disclaimer

As part of its confidential costing service, the PBO endeavours to provide reasonable estimates (or ranges of estimates) for policy proposals (as submitted). Policy specifications are those supplied by the client. To respect the impartiality of the Office in providing this service, the PBO should not be represented as supporting the underlying proposals and will not comment on the merits or otherwise of the underlying proposals. For the detail of the costing service, refer to the [Policy Costing Service Guidelines](#) and [An Overview of the PBO Costing Process and our Prioritisation Framework](#). The PBO reserves the right to publish details relating to a confidential costing analysis when the results are made public.

Overview

This publication is a public release of a costing prepared on a confidential basis by the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) upon request from Fianna Fáil Senator Malcolm Byrne. The request specified to estimate the cost of implementing a Culture Card for Young People, which we model based on 2025 population projections.



1. Summary of Request

To introduce a card/voucher for all young people aged 18 to 24 inclusive for the live events of arts/ music/ cultural organisations, with the scenario values of €100, €200 and €300.

2. Overview of Data and Methodology

- Population projections for 2025 of the eligible age category (18 to 24) are taken from Central Statistics Office (CSO) table PEC19 '[Projected Population based on Census 2022](#).' An average across the M1, M2 and M3 migration scenarios is used.
- The proportions of Irish citizens in the relevant age group are derived from data in CSO table F5009, '[Population Usually Resident and Present in the State](#).' These proportions, based on 2022 Census data, are then applied to population projections to estimate the number of Irish citizens by age in 2025.
- Take-up rate for the policy is assumed at 87%, based on the [Arts Council survey data](#) for any “arts event” attendance for the past 12 months, for 16 to 24 year olds. Spending proportion is assumed to be 100%.
- Due to there being no detail given by the requester on the public service staffing that the scheme would require, it is assumed that the administration of the scheme would be handled by existing Public Service Resources with no additional costs.

3. Cost Estimates

Table 1 outlines the full-year costs of implementing the Culture Card for Young People in 2025, categorised by scenario: either for the entire resident population or exclusively for Irish citizens, based on the client’s request.

Table 1: Cost of Culture Card for Young People for 2025 by Scenario

Year	Amount	87% Take-up, 100% Spend, all 18-24 Population	87% Take-up, 100% Spend, all 18-24 Irish Citizens
2025	€100	€41.7 Million	€35.2 Million
2025	€200	€83.5 Million	€70.4 Million
2025	€300	€125.2 Million	€105.5 Million

Source: PBO’s own modelling based on CSO data.



4. Areas of Uncertainty

Some points of uncertainty and important caveats are listed below.

Data uncertainty

- There is **low** data uncertainty in the analysis, as the population data is taken from the CSO.

Modelling uncertainty

- There is **high** modelling uncertainty in the analysis. Due to insufficient data, it is assumed that the spend rate is 100%, and the take-up rate 87%. Likewise, it is assumed that the scheme administration can be handled by existing public service resources, as a detailed policy specification was not included to estimate staff costs. As a new policy, there may be associated administrative costs. There is also uncertainty associated with the population projections and the modelling of the proportions of Irish citizens.

Behavioural uncertainty

- There is **medium** behavioural uncertainty in the analysis, representing on how the availability of the scheme may increase participation in the relevant live event cultural activities, which hence may affect the take-up and spend rates of the scheme.