



CFO name: Talbot Rice Gallery

Reference number (GMS): G200801032

**Lead officer's recommendation**

**Summarise your reasons for assessing the application as you have (drawing out the strengths and weaknesses of the proposal and highlighting any specific risks):**

The Talbot Rice has helped a number of artists to develop their creative and business potential. The gallery works with a range of artists, from the more established to the emerging. It presents a programme that attracts a broad audience and that is built on strong partnership working.

Talbot Rice is committed to developing learning opportunities and has an integrated approach to education. It is keen to undertake research to develop new approaches to gallery education. The gallery has an evidenced commitment to increasing participation in the arts and is improving its marketing/ audience development plans.

The gallery benefits from good relations with service Departments across the University and benefits from a its expertise and resources. The University's commitment to the gallery is strong and the establishment of an Advisory Board has been a positive development. The organisation is financially stable and fundraises effectively for the programme.

**Strengths**

- Clear artistic policy
- Commitment to supporting artists at different stages in their career
- Integrated approach to education and strong links with schools / community groups
- Commitment to growing audiences and developing visibility / accessibility
- Uniquely located within the University of Edinburgh – opportunities to collaborate across Department are now being actively explored
- Close link with Edinburgh College of Art
- Good partnerships with local, national and international galleries/ institutions
- Effective management

**Weaknesses**

- Difficulty of increasing physical visibility
- Need to develop full accessibility
- Need to develop new marketing plan that can be effective within known or limited resources

**Risks**

No significant risks identified

**Assessment:**

**High**

**Areas of concern:**

Identify areas of concern drawn from the assessment which will inform the funding agreement for 2006/7 and future agreements / 12 month development plan (as applicable)

To become fully compliant with Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) legislation.

**Development issues:**

Identify development issues drawn from the assessment which will inform the funding agreement for 2006/7 and future agreements / 12 month development plan (as applicable)

To work with TAB to develop a new marketing plan

To secure a sponsor for the Round Room

To maintain quality across the exhibitions programme

To complete the review of operational systems and implement changes

To maintain the Advisory Board

To continue to develop an effective working relationship with Department across the University

Lead Officer:

Date: 2/12/05

Print name: Amanda Catto

## Stage 2

Decision and authorisation			
CFO name: Talbot Rice Gallery		Reference number (GMS): G200801032	
Stage 2: Head of Department recommendation within the context of the sector ecosystem			
Category for support		Important	
<p>Based on the lead officer's assessment and match with the department ecosystem, summarise your reasons for assessing the application as you have (drawing out the strengths and weaknesses of the organisation and highlighting any specific risks). Identifying development areas.</p> <p>The Talbot Rice is an important venue that support a wide range of artists. It has a particularly important role in promoting the work of artists who are at a more mature stage of practice. The range of work presented in the gallery enables the gallery to attract a broad audience. As part of the University the gallery has a strong and evidenced commitment to creating learning opportunities for the public. The gallery's education and community programmes are well considered and help to increase participation in the arts from people who are socially/ culturally excluded. The venue provides an important opportunity for artists to show work of scale and the gallery is respected for its work nationally and internationally.</p> <p>The Talbot Rice meets the Scottish Arts Council's aims well. For this reason, within an optimum scenario, the Department would seek to increase funding to the gallery to enable it to take forward plans for education and audience development.</p> <p>If there is no new investment in the visual arts then the Department is not convinced it should apply a policy of misery for all. It has proposed that within a standstill scenario it should make some difficult decisions that would release funding for strategic developments across the infrastructure - such as King Street/ Briggait in Glasgow, Peacock Visual Arts, Aberdeen and the Pier Arts Centre, Orkney.</p> <p>In this context it is recommended that funding for the Talbot Rice might be discontinued. This is a decision that is <b>financially driven</b> and is not a comment on the organisation's performance or ability to meet Scottish Arts Council aims. The reason for targeting the Talbot Rice in this way is that it may be possible for the University to maintain the venue/ programme without Scottish Arts Council core funding.</p> <p>It is accepted that there is a significant risk attached to this decision as the University is unlikely to be in a position to meet the funding gap. The implications of a withdrawal of grant need serious consideration.</p>			
Decision authorised: Head of Department Print name: Amanda Catto		Date 2/12/05	By 11 November 2005

<b>Stage 3: Head of Department recommendation within the context of the Corporate Synthesised scenario</b>			
<b>CFO name: Talbot Rice Gallery</b>		<b>Reference number (GMS): G200801032</b>	
<b>Category for support</b>		<b>Flexible</b>	
<p>The Talbot Rice has an important contribution to make to the Scottish Arts Council's new priorities. It supports a wide range of artists and has a particularly important role in promoting the work of artists who are at a more mature stage of practice. The venue provides an important opportunity for artists to show work of scale and the gallery is respected for its work nationally and internationally. As part of the University the gallery has a strong and evidenced commitment to creating learning opportunities for the public.</p> <p>Talbot Rice has been identified by the University as playing an increasingly important role in developing audiences and providing a public insight into the work of the institution. Given the Minister's call for increased cross departmental funding of the arts it is hoped that the University will be encouraged to increase its investment in the gallery over time.</p> <p>For this reason it is recommended that Talbot Rice receives flexible, artist led funding for the three years from 2007/08 at a slightly enhanced level. This allows the University to focus support on core costs while Scottish Arts Council can focus resources on the delivery of a nationally/ internationally significant programme.</p>			
Recommendation authorised: Head of Department Print name: Amanda Catto		Date 15/2/06	By 14 February 2006

<b>Stage 4: Group Heads</b>			
<b>Recommendation and authorisation</b>			
<b>CFO name: Talbot Rice Gallery</b>		<b>Reference number (GMS): G200801032</b>	
<b>Category for support</b>		<b>Flexible</b>	
Agree with the recommendation for flexible funding status as an artist led organisation from 07/08.			
Decision authorised: Group Head Print name: Jim Tough		Date	By 14 February 2006

<b>Stage 5: Creative Arts Committee</b>			
<b>Recommendation and authorisation</b>			
CFO name: Talbot Rice Gallery		Reference number (GMS): G200801032	
Category for support		Flexible	
Agreed as per Managers/Group Heads recommendations.			
Committee Chair Print name: Jane Jeffrey (Vice Chair)		Date 24 February 2006	

<b>Stage 6: Council</b>			
<b>Decision</b>			
CFO name: Talbot Rice Gallery		Reference number (GMS): G200801032	
Category for support		Flexible	
Approved flexible funding as per Managers/Group Heads and Committee recommendations.			
Chairman Print name: Richard Holloway		Date 28 February 2006	

**End of Assessment**