



Changes to the Relationship Framework



We are the Arts Council England.
We give money to projects to make
arts and culture happen in England.



When we say arts and culture, we
mean things like:

- music and dance



- theatre and circus



- libraries and museums



- books and poems



- festivals and carnivals



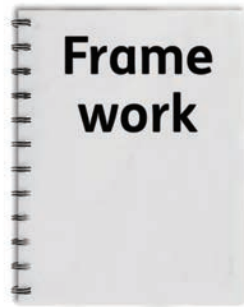
- paintings, photos and sculptures



We want everyone in England to enjoy arts and culture. We want arts and culture to make a difference to people's lives.



To help us and the organisations we support we write guides and rules.



One of the guides we wrote is called our Relationship Framework.



It says how we will work together with an organisation. It says what we will do and what an organisations needs to do.



A few weeks ago we changed part of the relationship framework.



The new part was about what to do if a piece of work might upset some people.



The piece of work might talk about or show things that people have lots of strong feelings about.

This could be things like:



- Politics. This is about who runs a country or what people think should be happening there



- Death



- Disability



- War

Protecting organisations



All artwork we give money to, must be open for anyone to see it.



Nobody should feel like they are not allowed to see it or get involved.



But art and culture that makes people feel angry or upset is still very important.



Just because something upsetting is in the artwork, it does not mean an organisation who paid for it, agrees with what it says or shows.



For example, a museum might have a piece of art in it that upsets people.



But that does not mean that the people who run the museum or work in it, agree with what is in the piece of art.



People can get very angry at staff and organisations because the art is there.



This can make:

- staff feel really unsafe



- people stop going to a place



- people think the organisation supports bad things



The change to the Framework told organisations what to do if a piece of art might upset some people.



It says organisations must think about how people might feel and what people might do, if they see the artwork.



Organisations need to be ready to tell people:

- that they don't agree with what it says or shows

and



- why it's important to show the artwork even if it might upset some people



Doing this might help to stop people saying bad things about organisations.

Or sharing things on social media without knowing all the facts.



People working in arts charities and groups said they were really worried about what the changes to the Framework mean.



People are worried that artists will be stopped from doing some pieces of work if it will upset people.



We really hope this easy read leaflet shows we do not want to stop artists from making any kinds of work.