

# Controversy over art grant takes further twist as payment method is ruled out



**ELLIE HARRISON:** Provoked a storm on social media.

SCOTLAND'S arts funding body has insisted that a controversial £15,000 grant for an artist who will not leave Glasgow for a year must go to her personally.

Ellie Harrison, who is behind The Glasgow Effect, which has provoked a social media storm, had suggested the money would be paid to her employer, Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design in Dundee.

In return, the lecturer would be allowed paid research leave to complete the project. The college, part of the University of Dundee, also understood this to be the arrangement.

However, Creative Scotland now says this was not allowed under its Open Funding rules. The university, which employs the artist on a part-time basis, is now in discussions with the lecturer

over how the situation can be resolved.

A statement from Creative Scotland said: "The £15,000 funding that was awarded to Ellie Harrison for the project, originally titled Think Global, Act Local!, through Creative Scotland's Open Project Fund was to support the artist in her work on this project and the development of her creative practice.

"The funds will not be paid

to Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design to cover the costs of her teaching post. This complies with our criteria for funding through the Open Project Funding route, which states that it can be used to support 'the time to research, develop or create work or content, including artists' bursaries to support practice development'."

A spokesman for the university said: "Our agree-

ment with Ms Harrison to free her time for the project has been predicated on costs being provided to cover her teaching time at the University.

"We are now in discussions with Ms Harrison in an effort to find a resolution."

"The Glasgow Effect" is a well-known phrase for discussing the poor health and low life expectancy of the city's most deprived areas.

The project's Facebook page is illustrated with an image of chips, which people on social media said offended them.

However, Ms Harrison stressed the project is not primarily about poverty or deprivation in the city.

Ms Harrison said the bulk of her work will be setting up a "radical alternative" to existing funding systems, called the Radical Renewable Art + Activism Fund.