



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

15 June 2018

Joan McAlpine MSP
Convener
Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Dear Convener,

I am writing to you and the CTEER Committee, following the publication of the submissions you have received as part of your inquiry into Regular Funding and your subsequent letter, dated 14 June 2018.

Please accept this letter as an initial response. We will reply in full by 31 August 2018 as you request. We will also be happy to give evidence to the Committee again at a future date.

You will be familiar with Creative Scotland's submission to the inquiry which sets out the process for Regular Funding 2018-21 and our initial learning from that process. This submission is also available to read on our own website:

http://www.creativescotland.com/data/assets/pdf_file/0005/51575/CTEER-submission-Regular-Funding.pdf

The submissions to the Committee raise many broad ranging and constructive points which will be helpful as we review our future funding approach. We have also received more ideas, thoughts and suggestions directly from cultural organisations and individuals, both in writing and through our day-to-day dialogue, which we welcome.

We have read and digested all the submissions that the Committee received, and your letter. We respect the investment of time and thought that individuals and organisations have put into their submissions and I'd like to assure the Committee that, as recently appointed Chair of Creative Scotland, I recognise there needs to be full trust and confidence in the organisation.

We are conducting a formal, independent, review of the last round of Regular Funding. This review is underway, and we will be in a position to share the findings and recommendations after the Summer recess. There is, of course, already a lot of very constructive and useful material in the submissions received by the Committee which will contribute to this process.



This Regular Funding review will feed into the planned wider review of our overall funding approach which we aim to have completed by the end of this year. The sector, our Staff and stakeholders will be actively involved in that process.

We take all feedback very seriously, however, it is important to record that the timing of the Committee's call for evidence took place before many important discussions had taken place with organisations to explain our decisions and respond to their concerns. Some submissions received by the Committee raise very specific issues regarding particular experiences of the Regular Funding process or individual points in a particular organisation's assessments. These have either been discussed in full with the organisations concerned or addressed through our formal complaints process, where requested.

It is of concern, therefore, that much of the criticism that has been made reflects unduly negatively on Creative Scotland and particularly on our Staff. I have no doubt about their commitment to this process and their expertise, professionalism and integrity in the work they do more broadly. We will reflect this in our more fulsome response.

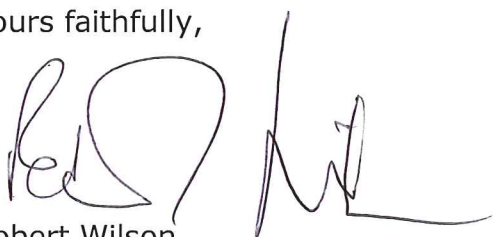
I would also wish to make you aware that I will be working with the Board and Staff to conduct an organisational review which will look at Creative Scotland's culture and working practices, values, structure and operations in order to shape a better future for Creative Scotland and the sectors we support.

However, we should also not lose sight of the fact that we continue to support excellent creative work across all parts of Scotland and internationally through all our routes to funding. We have an extremely dedicated, passionate, and knowledgeable Staff team who remain committed to delivering vital support for artists, creative people and organisations across Scotland.

Please be in no doubt that Creative Scotland will continue to build on these undoubted strengths, whilst learning from recent events and making the necessary improvements to rebuild confidence and trust in all our work.

We will respond more fully to your letter by 31 August 2018, as requested.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Wilson', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Robert Wilson
Chair
Creative Scotland