

Petitioner submission of 17 October 2023

PE2030/E: Review cultural funding arrangements to enable Scotland to contribute to the Venice Biennale in 2024

The Scottish Government's submission of 11 October 2023 stating that a formal review of funding will take place with likely outcome and recommendations being taken forward in 2026 is deeply concerning. It means that Scotland may not be represented at Venice Biennale at least until 2027. That is an outrage.

When Scotland needs to be put front and centre it is relegated and at considerable expense to the taxpayer. In my view, this is a perverse decision. It undermines confidence in public bodies. It is just wasteful and dare I say lacks any gumption.

In his address to the 2023 SNP conference, Humza Yousaf announced that investment in Scotland's arts and culture will be more than doubled over the next five years. He went on to say that "*if politics is about choices, I choose to ensure that Scotland's arts and culture are supported to grow at home, and be seen across the world.*" This announcement should allow a greater flexibility for Scotland's participation at the Venice Biennale.