



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

Convener of the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee  
Clare Adamson MSP  
Company  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

22 May 2024

Dear Clare

Further to my letter dated 16 April 2024 ([ceeac-convenor-response-16.04.24.docx \(live.com\)](#)) I am writing to provide a short update.

We have now issued our responses to 23 Freedom of Information (FOI) requests that we had received regarding the project 'Rein', from which we recently withdrew funding for the reasons detailed in my previous letter.

Those FOI responses include the application materials that the Committee has requested sight of.

I attach the files relating to the application that we have released, which include the redactions we have applied in accordance with the appropriate legal exemptions.

You will see that the application which led to the award being made through our Open Fund for Individuals did not contain any references to real or 'non-simulated' sex. It is worth noting that the application references a number of specialist roles and safeguards as part of the project, for example, the use of Intimacy Co-ordinators. This is expected practice in projects that involve sexual content in their performance. To reiterate, the application would not have been accepted had it been clear that real sex was part of the project.

It is also important to note that the artist did not contest the reasons for withdrawal of the grant and has repaid the funding, as reported in my last letter to the Committee.

Given recent media reporting and public commentary, I therefore do not agree that I have misled anyone.

This is a rare and highly unusual set of circumstances and I fully appreciate the public interest and concern being expressed. This is why we have been undertaking a Review of our processes to strengthen the scrutiny of all applications, particularly identifying those which may involve controversial or provocative content.

Actions we have taken include the immediate implementation of an interim assurance process on our Open Fund for Individuals from 15 March. This includes an additional risk review stage, undertaken by the Senior Leadership Team, for all Open Fund for Individual (OFFI) awards prior to any final decisions being communicated. This continues to be in operation for all OFFI awards whilst we conclude the Review and is proving effective in providing additional assurance over decisions.

For example, the additional assurance measures include potential conditions of grant, or additional monitoring and reporting requirements. For the majority of applicants, we are able to keep to the published timescales for decision making. For the small number of applications which require additional due diligence, the process is concluding within a few days beyond published timescales.

To move beyond this interim process, I am clear that the learning from our Review must be applied as soon as possible. Actions that can be taken as a result of the lessons learned are being scoped and will be permanently implemented from June. A Task and Finish group has been established to implement a number of these improvements to the Open Fund processes, which will further strengthen the decision making and controls for these funds.

Once our internal Governance on the Review has concluded in June, I will write with further details of the outcomes and the permanent changes we are making. I will be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have at any time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Iain Munro', written in a cursive style.

Iain Munro  
Chief Executive