Dear Iain,

CREATIVE SCOTLAND’S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Thank you for your regular updates on the measures Creative Scotland is taking to support the culture sector at this extremely challenging time. The Committee appreciates that this crisis is placing increased demands on Creative Scotland and we are grateful that you have nonetheless been able to keep us informed.

It is very encouraging to see the financial assistance being offered by Creative Scotland and the Scottish Government to the culture sector. The Committee is keen to understand more about how individuals and organisations are able to access the funding being made available. In particular, we would welcome more detail in your future updates on how much of the available funding has been awarded to recipients; the amount being awarded in individual grants; the individuals and organisations that have been awarded funding to date; and the geographic spread of the individuals and organisations that have been awarded funding.

The Committee would also welcome Creative’s Scotland assessment of the particular challenges that this crisis poses to people and organisations in the arts, screen and creative industries in the short term and beyond the immediate consequences of the lockdown.

The Cabinet Secretary for the Economy, Fair Work and Culture has committed to providing the Committee with monthly updates on the measures being taken by the
Scottish Government to respond to Covid-19 in her letter of 24 April 2020. The Committee would be grateful if Creative Scotland was able to do the same.

Yours sincerely,

Joan McAlpine MSP
Convener, Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee