Dear Fiona,

COVID-19

I am writing regarding the developing situation with Covid-19 and the impact upon the cultural sector and individuals within the sector. The Committee recognises the unprecedented nature of the challenges facing Scotland, and the Scottish Government, as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic and of the essential restrictions that have been put into effect by the Scottish and UK governments to address this situation.

The Committee is aware that the restrictions in place to address Covid-19 are, and will continue to have, a significant impact upon the cultural sector and individuals employed within the cultural sector during this period. Accordingly the Committee, whilst recognising the unprecedented demands being placed upon the Scottish Government, would appreciate a written update, no later than Monday 27 April, on the measures being taken to support the cultural sector, and individuals employed within the sector, as a consequence of the restrictions in place to address Covid-19. The Committee would welcome regular written updates on this issue given the importance of the cultural sector to Scotland’s economy and society during this critical period.

I wish to also take this opportunity to note that the Committee has yet to receive from the Scottish Government a response to our Arts Funding inquiry report which was initially due on 18 February. The Committee recognises the unprecedented demands being placed on the Scottish Government but would welcome a response from the Scottish Government as soon as is practically possible.

Yours sincerely,

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