3 July 2020

Dear Convener

WRITTEN UPDATE ON SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT’S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

I am writing with a further update to the Committee about measures to support the cultural sector during the current emergency.

The Scottish Government today is announcing a new £10m fund to support not-for-profit venues in the performing arts sector who are experiencing significant difficulties due to Covid-19.

As the Committee is, I am sure, only too aware from the evidence it has received, performing arts venues were amongst the very first to close as the pandemic set in, and are likely to be amongst the last to return to normal business, once physical distancing allows. The resulting loss of income has threatened their solvency and put jobs at risk. The sector needs to retain its physical and human infrastructure so that Scotland’s arts scene can thrive once again.

The Performing Arts Venues Relief Fund is aimed at addressing these needs, including work for creative freelancers. Creative Scotland’ will be running the Fund and will be making further details available shortly.

I hope the Committee will welcome this positive development.

FIONA HYSLOP

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