



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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BY E-MAIL

15 May 2019

Dear Iain,

Thank you for your recent evidence to the Committee on [2 May](#). There were a number of areas where the Committee indicated that it wished to receive further information during the meeting. In addition, the Committee also raised a number of areas, in subsequent discussion of the evidence heard, where we wish to receive additional information.

As you will be aware, a substantial proportion of the evidence related to the financial context in which Creative Scotland is operating. The Committee notes the intention of Creative Scotland to undertake regional consultations on what the priorities for arts funding should be. The Committee requests a written update, by the end of August, regarding what consultations have taken place and any findings that may have emerged from these consultations at that stage.

There was a useful discussion at the meeting, regarding the changing landscape of arts funding and in particular the “sensitive tipping point” you identified with regard to arts funding available from local authorities and the National Lottery. The Committee would welcome details of any work that Creative Scotland has undertaken to ‘future-proof’ and respond to this changing funding environment.

The Committee notes that Creative Scotland has been engaging with a UK Government consultation and “taken part in conversations about” a potential ‘Shared Prosperity Fund’. The Committee would welcome details of what form this engagement has taken and also details of any conversations that have taken place and with representatives of which organisations. In a Brexit context, the Committee would also welcome information on Creative Scotland’s position on what approach should be taken with regard to the Creative Europe programme in a post-Brexit environment.


The Committee also welcomes the recent publication of the Screen Scotland Business Plan 2019-20. However, the Committee would have appreciated if the Plan had been published earlier in order to allow time for the Committee to fully consider the content of the Plan rather than one day prior to the Committee meeting on 2 May. In relation to screen, the Committee requests the following additional information—

- To provide the overall planned budget for Screen Scotland for 2019-20, once approved, and of any planned, indicative budgets for future years
- To provide the 2019-20 budget allocations for each of the funds that are administered by Screen Scotland
- Has Creative Scotland undertaken any assessment, and if so to provide details, of the structure of funding of screen that is in place in comparator jurisdictions such as Canada, France, Ireland and Northern Ireland
- To provide the additional 'performance indicators' that sit beneath the 'key performance indicator' on Studio and Build Space in the Screen Scotland Business Plan 2019-20 and of any other performance indicators that sit beneath the key performance indicators in the Business Plan
- Whether the refreshed locations website will be published prior to December 2019 or prior to the end of the 2019-20 financial year
- An update on the resourcing plan for Screen Scotland, including details of the roles that have already been filled and those which are yet to be filled and the associated timescales.
- An update on progress in developing a skills strategy for the industry and when this is expected to be completed
- What processes Creative Scotland has in place to monitor what proportion of Screen Scotland financial support is spent in Scotland, and
- To provide further details on the scoping study, being undertaken with industry consultation, on business development support for the screen sector

Lastly, I wish to note that the Committee intends to take further oral evidence from Creative Scotland before the end of 2019 in order to review progress on the issues raised by the Committee. I also wish to place on record my appreciation for the co-operation of Creative Scotland in assisting the Committee in scrutiny of these critical areas of the Committee's remit. If you wish to discuss any of the issues raised in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the clerks to the Committee.

I look forward to receiving your response to this letter by 14 June.

Yours Sincerely,



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