

Murdo Fraser MSP  
Convener  
Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee  
Room M2.07  
Scottish Parliament

29<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Dear Murdo

Before we enter the pre-election period, I wanted to follow up on some points arising from the oral evidence session with the Committee on 9 March in relation to the creative industries.

### **Creative Industries Strategy 2016-17**

The Committee asked about timescales for publication of Creative Scotland's Creative Industries Strategy 2016-17. My expectation was that this would happen prior to the dissolution of Parliament as I had asked for it to be published by Spring 2016. My officials have confirmed with Creative Scotland that the Strategy was signed off at the CS Board meeting on 17 March and that they are to provide you with a copy of the Strategy (on behalf of the Committee) and publish it on their website early this week.

### **TV Working Group**

A request was made for a copy of the minutes from the last TV Working Group meeting which took place on 26 January in Glasgow. A copy is therefore enclosed with this letter (see attached at Annex A).

### **Information Portal**

During our meeting, David Smith explained that Scottish Enterprise, Business Gateway and Creative Scotland are collaborating to develop a portal which will ensure that information is clearly signposted for organisations across the creative industries so they are able to easily and quickly access the wide-range of public sector support that is available to them. I said that we would provide an update but since the work to create this online resource is still ongoing, my officials can update the successor Committee at a later date if that is desirable.

More widely, I have noted the content of the Committee's Legacy Report in relation to the inquiry on the economic impact of the creative industries and hope there will be further opportunities for the Scottish Government to provide updates on developments in the sector.

*kind regards*

*Fiona*

**FIONA HYSLOP**

## Meeting Note

### TV Working Group 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2016 – 10:30-12:30 BBC Scotland, Pacific Quay, Glasgow

#### Present:

Jane Muirhead (JM) Chair	Raise the Roof Productions
Robbie Allen (RA)	Creative Scotland
Natalie Usher (NU)	Creative Scotland
Mark Thomas (MT)	Creative Scotland
John Archer (JA)	Hopscotch Films
George Falconer (GF)	Scottish Enterprise
Susan Hunter (SH)	Scottish Enterprise
Rab Christie (RC)	Comedy Unit
David Smith (DS)	Matchlight
David Strachan (DStr)	Tern TV
Alasdair Smith (AS)	Creative Skillset
David Martin (DM)	Skills Development Scotland
Alex Gaffney (AG)	BBC
Sajid Quayum (SQ)	Caledonia TV
David Fleetwood (DF)	Scottish Government (from 11:00-11:20)
Catherine Brown (CB)	Creative Scotland (note-taker)

#### Apologies:

Iseabail Mactaggart (IM)	MG Alba
David Smith (DS)	Scottish Enterprise
Susan Haynes (SHa)	Comedy Unit
Elizabeth Partyka (EP)	STV
Katie Lander (KL)	Fine Strip Productions
Paul Sheehan (PS)	STV
Jonathan Warne (JW)	IWC Media
Amanda Millen (AM)	Screenhi

<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Apologies</b>
1.1	JM welcomed everyone, in particular David Martin from Skills Development Scotland a new member of the Group and Rab Christie from the Comedy Unit who was attending in place of Susan Haynes.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes and Actions of meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2015</b>
2.1	Minutes of the meeting of 15 <sup>th</sup> December, 2015 were approved as being an accurate representation of this meeting.
<b>3.</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b>
3.1	There were no matters arising.



<b>4.</b>	<b>Skills</b>
4.1	<p><u><i>Creative Skillset Update:</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project-led funding is more to the fore now</li> <li>• Devolution has had a knock-on effect re access to resources – more limited funding.</li> <li>• Restructuring taking place</li> <li>• AS is taking redundancy and will leave at the end of March, 2016</li> <li>• Edinburgh office will close but Creative Skillset will continue to be a UK body – unsure as to how exactly this will work</li> <li>• Main Board Trustees are meeting in London on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2016 to discuss how the work can continue to be UK-wide.</li> <li>• <i>Scottish Funding Council:</i> will meet with them next week to try and ensure that the work which is done with them can continue.</li> </ul> <p>AS thanked the Group for their encouragement and support over the years.</p>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Creative Skillset Subsidised Management and Leadership Training Available</b>
5.1	<p>AS advised that the above training begins on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2016. This is subsidised by Creative Skillset to the tune of 50%. AS talked through the main Themes of the programme and will provide the Group with the presentation giving details of the content. <b>Action: AS</b></p> <p>The training can be accessed on-line via Adobe Connect. Cost is £250 excluding VAT. Last sign-up date is 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2016. Contact <a href="mailto:megan@isongo.com">megan@isongo.com</a> or AS for more information.</p>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Skills</b>
6.1	<p>DM gave update of Skills Development Scotland which was established in 2008.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'My World of Work' can be viewed online. 100K teenagers have already accessed this. Want to devise a way for primary-age children to also gain access.</li> <li>• Modern Apprenticeships are available particularly in creative industries</li> <li>• Broadening the pathway via foundation apprenticeships</li> <li>• Want creative industries to expand by 2017</li> <li>• Have a creative industries skills forum looking at updating digital skills</li> <li>• Delivering things in new ways is a challenge currently</li> <li>• Received a £6m cut for this year</li> <li>• Very little in discretionary spend available, if at all. Many challenges ahead.</li> </ul>

- UK Commission for Employment & Skills may be disbanded by April, 2016
- *Independent Producers Scotland (IPS)*: invested in film and tv
- *Scottish Enterprise & Creative Scotland*: funded TRC Media
- *Leading Edge*: in final year and has been very successful
- Opportunities for internships will arise.
- Screen Skills Fund (partnered with Creative Scotland) launched in 2015, has been successful and hope this Fund will continue.
- AS advised that Creative Skillset registers all the apprenticeships in Scotland.
- Screens Forum in place to take action as and when required. Will refresh this Forum and decide if anyone from the TV Working Group should become a member. **Action: DM**

A discussion on skills gaps took place. AG mentioned that there are skills gaps with regard to women in sport and also children's live action drama. AG will share the findings on this. **Action: AG**

JM mentioned that there is a shortage of series producers – need to make sure there is a course for this and who should fund it. Group agreed that this course would be very worthwhile. Group to consider how this could be achieved. Further discussion took place. DM to consider how best to obtain this course. **Action: DM**

Should involve all channels. RA explained the work of Film City Futures to the Group. It is a high level business and training programme. Skills will remain on Agenda going forward. RA confirmed the training companies involved in the Screen Sector Skills Fund which Creative Scotland is supporting, namely:

- Frontrunner – Film City Futures
- Screen Routes - Edinburgh Napier University (Screen Academy Scotland)
- Fix Visual Effects - Film City
- Step Ahead – Centre for the Moving Image and Film Hub Scotland
- Screen Education Edinburgh
- Jumpcut – Film City Futures
- Make Your Market Lab: Scottish Documentary Institute (SDI) and We Are The Tonic – training film producers
- Film Industry Network and Diversity (FIND)



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• European Training Courses &amp; Market Partnerships</li> <li>• Development Programme for Writers</li> <li>• Outlander (Training &amp; Skills)</li> <li>• Market Leaders – Initialize Films</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.creativescotland.com/funding/funding-programmes/funds-delivered-by-partners/screen-sector-skills-development-programme">http://www.creativescotland.com/funding/funding-programmes/funds-delivered-by-partners/screen-sector-skills-development-programme</a></p>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Scottish Government Update on BBC Charter Renewal</b>
7.1	<p>David Fleetwood joined the meeting at 11:00 and flagged Committee appearances on 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2016.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Debate will take place during the second half of February 2016. Need approval of Parliament – there will be a Motion.</li> <li>• Policy paper available in the next 3 to 4 weeks</li> <li>• Engagement with Clementi Review – formal paper available later</li> <li>• Timetable from Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) moves back to February 2016 and White paper in March 2016</li> <li>• Channel 4 will be on the Agenda when Ms. Fiona Hyslop meets John Whittingdale.</li> <li>• Governance structures and how this might work</li> <li>• Interests in independent producers to make best use of expertise available.</li> <li>• Difficult to remove BBC accounts from UK to BBC accounts in Scotland. Figures have been provided from last year and seem to be accurate and widely accepted by the Scottish Government. JA felt that there was slight obfuscation rather than clarity concerning the figures. DF left the meeting at 11:10.</li> </ul> <p>Meeting regarding BBC studios will take place with Pact at the end of February, 2016. Commissioning discussion has already begun. Nothing more to report. General discussion took place. It was felt that there needed to be more transparency in dealings with the BBC. AG &amp; JM to take this forward. <b>Action: AG &amp; JM</b></p> <p>GF gave update on Screen Leadership Group. Sub-group of TV working Group met with EKOS last week. EKOS subsequently provided a report detailing the work they will carry out. GF will circulate this to the Sub-group. <b>Action: GF</b></p> <p>Timescale is the end of March, 2016 but may need to be extended to ensure everything has been covered. BBC figures will be used by EKOS. A Consultant to work on strategy has not yet been appointed. MT will work on this and contact the Sub-group. The Screen Leadership Group will go ahead and appoint a consultant. <b>Action: MT</b></p>

<b>8.0</b>	<b>AOB</b>
8.1	How the TV Working Group interacts with the Screen Sector Leadership Group (SSLG) has not yet been discussed. NU explained how the groups work together. John McCormick will discuss this and the Terms of Reference at today's meeting of the SSLG. Regular updates will go to the attendees of the initial meeting. If you want to receive these, please send an email to Robbie Allen. DM asked if an Action Plan document will be produced by the SSLG at the end of the time period. NU advised that this will be decided later.
<b>9.0</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>
9.1	29th March, 2016, Glasgow – exact venue tbc