

## SUBMISSION FROM BBC SCOTLAND

### Overview

With 1200 EFT staff, BBC Scotland operates from 13 staffed centres around Scotland, from Orkney and Shetland to Dumfries and Selkirk.

Across a landmass that is one third that of the United Kingdom, it serves a population of 5.3m, 8.3% of the UK population, scattered across major urban conurbations, rural and island communities.

In addition to network BBC services, television services for audiences include BBC One Scotland, BBC Two Scotland and the Gaelic language service, BBC ALBA (operated in collaboration with MG ALBA); radio services are provided via BBC Radio Scotland and BBC Radio nan Gaidheal; and there is online provision at [www.bbc.co.uk/Scotland](http://www.bbc.co.uk/Scotland). The BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra operates from a city centre base at Glasgow City Halls.

BBC Scotland headquarters, at Pacific Quay, Glasgow, represents a BBC investment of £188m in a fully digital, integrated multi-platform broadcast centre, with production facilities in HD television, radio and online and superfast links with all other BBC centres around Scotland.

### The Economic Value of the BBC to the Creative Sector in Scotland

A BBC of scale and scope with a stable funding mechanism that does not compete with commercial sources (ie advertising and subscription), lies at the heart of a successful UK creative economy.

*Helping Drive Growth in the UK Creative Economy: BBC Report: September 2011. P7*

In terms of the overall economic value of BBC to the country, for every £1 of Licence Fee collected the BBC delivers over £2 of value back into the economy – in Scotland, that equated to around £410m for the financial year 2011/12 (an increase of £55m on 2010/11 and the largest % value increase across any part of BBC nations and regions).<sup>1</sup>

In 2013/14, the BBC spend in the UK creative economy was £1.1bn, with almost half of that (£484m) spent on independent programmes transmitted during that financial year.<sup>2</sup>

In Scotland, the total BBC annual spend is around £200m. This figure reflects the BBC spend on local programming and content – for Scotland – and the network TV and radio business which BBC Scotland is able to attract each year. It does not include the BBC's investment in the vast bulk of UK network TV, radio and online content consumed by audiences in Scotland, as it is by audiences across the country. Nor does it reflect the BBC's investment in R&D (which has resulted in Freeview,

<sup>1</sup> The Economic Value of the BBC, 2011/12: BBC Report, published January 2013: P4

<sup>2</sup> BBC Annual Report and Accounts, 2013/14, P5. This figure does not include spend on in-house production.

Red Button, BBC iPlayer, BBC Playlister, BBC iWonder and other technical innovations ) or investment, for example, in broadcast production facilities, such as those at Pacific Quay.

In 2013, the percentage of BBC network TV spend in Scotland was 10.9% of the total eligible BBC network spend, a significant increase on the 7.6% spend figure for 2012 and well in excess of the 8.6% target set for 2016. In the same calendar year, nearly 1000 hours of network BBC TV were produced from Scotland, more than ever before and more than twice the amount produced five years ago. In itself, that represents around £90m worth of business to Scotland's creative industries.

#### **Local and National Impacts**

In Glasgow, the 2010 Deloitte Economic Impact Study indicated that the BBC's presence in the city served to generate employment levels significantly greater than those of the broadcaster itself and resulted in a higher Gross Value Added (in 2010 - 3457 jobs and 0.8% GVA impact).\*

Further, it has been estimated that, between 2002 and 2012, *River City* and BBC Scotland's Dumbarton studios generated, cumulatively, an additional £135.3 million Gross Value Added to the regional economy (£45.6 million GVA to the Scottish economy) .\*\*

The same report estimates that, at September 2012, *River City* and BBC Scotland's Dumbarton studios supported 221 net additional full time equivalent jobs in the West of Scotland regional economy (71 net additional full time equivalent jobs at a national level).

Since its introduction in 2002, the drama - and the Dumbarton studios - have served as an important sustainable base for talent employment and training in the industry in Scotland, offering a training ground for craft and technical staff, directors, writers and others. They have also provided a springboard for many to go on to work on other BBC (and non-BBC productions), including *Holby City*, *Casualty* and *Eastenders*.

Including dailies and casual labour, the drama employs up to 200 people over the course of a year, the majority of whom are drawn from the freelance market, operating with a core of 90 crew when in production (28 weeks per year).

Over the years, *River City* has also hosted a number of trainee producer and trainee script editor placements (run by the Skillset Drama Training Scheme) and many of the trainees have gone on to fully-qualified positions on the programme.

\* Deloitte Economic Impact Study, 2010: P10

\*\* Strathleven Regeneration C.I.C Report (*Economic Impact of BBC Scotland's Dumbarton Studios: 2012*)

## **BBC Scotland, the Independent Broadcast Production Sector and Co-Production**

Around four fifths of the BBC network TV spend in Scotland in 2013 was on indies, spread across 28 separate companies; that represents a significant uplift in indie spend, by BBC, in Scotland, over the past two years (indicative of a general trend across the nations and regions' indie sector).<sup>3</sup>

In the same year, independent productions accounted for around 35% of local TV output, for BBC One Scotland and BBC Two Scotland, with successful commissions from 21 separate companies.

BBC ALBA works with between 25 and 30 independent companies each year, accounting for around 78% of the channel's output.

Some of the most successful BBC productions from Scotland have been produced by independent companies or in conjunction with other broadcasters:

- The network BBC One Saturday night Lottery shows *In It to Win It* and *Who Dares Wins*, produced by 12 Yard, were also shot at PQ, as was Fremantle/Thames Scotland's *Break the Safe*.
- CBeebies' drama – and double BAFTA-award winner - *Katie Morag*, shot on Lewis, is produced by Move On Up Productions.
- *Mrs Brown's Boys*, co-produced by RTE and shot at Pacific Quay, has been the most watched Christmas TV programme, across all UK broadcasters, for the last three years.

Recent notable BBC Scotland international co-productions include *Operation Iceberg* (Discovery Channel); the docu-drama, with William Hurt and Brian Dennehy, *The Challenger* (Science Channel); Richard Hammond's *How To Build a Planet* (BBC Worldwide & Science Channel (Discovery)); and *Earth's Natural Wonders* (BBC Worldwide & PBS).

Of the top 20 most watched network programmes from Scotland, Wales and N. Ireland, broadcast between 1 January 2013 and 18 October 2014, 14 were produced in Scotland, 13 of which were commissioned by BBC.<sup>4</sup>

## **BBC Scotland and Film**

Over the years, BBC Scotland has financially supported the production of a number of films, from *Small Faces*, *Mrs Brown* and *Cry For Bobo* to *The Flying Scotsman*, the story of world record-breaking cyclist Graeme Obree, and to more recent productions, such as *From Scotland With Love*, *Not Another Happy Ending*, *Kiss the Water*, *Fire In the Night* and *Sunset Song*, which is currently in production.

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<sup>3</sup> Broadcast Magazine: Indie Survey 2014, 21 March 2014, P38

<sup>4</sup> Broadcast Magazine: Nations & Regions Supplement 14 November 2014

BBC Scotland also supports initiatives such as Screen Academy Scotland's *Lo-Fi*, the low budget Scottish film initiative.

### **BBC Scotland Facilities Hire**

BBC Scotland production facilities, such as those at Pacific Quay and the 70,000 square feet of build space, across three studios, in Dumbarton, are also available to production companies to rent. STV Productions' *Catchphrase* (for ITV) and *Fifteen to One* (Remedy Productions for Channel 4) are two relatively recent examples of the Pacific Quay studios being hired for productions for other broadcasters. The financial return to the BBC provides additional programme and content investment finance.

### **BBC Scotland Spend with External Production Houses**

In financial year 2013/14, BBC Scotland spent over £8m on local facilities hire and freelance staff (including spend on edit facilities, sound dubbing facilities, external graphics providers, studios, outside broadcast suppliers, camera, sound and lighting equipment, as well as spend on areas like props, scenic construction, make up and costumes).

### **Training and skills development**

The BBC's commitment to enhancing the productive potential of the creative sector is evident in its support of numerous training and skills development initiatives, its support for research and the role it plays in developing processes and platforms on which others can build business opportunities.

In-house, the BBC is able to call upon a rich resource of trained and skilled broadcast production staff, many of whom subsequently move within the BBC and between the BBC, other broadcasters, independent broadcast production companies and other sectors of the economy.

The BBC Academy's online modular courses are available to the wider industry, in Scotland as they are across the UK, and the BBC works closely with BECTU, PACT, Creative Skillset and other organisations to spread the availability of training opportunities among those who currently work in broadcasting and among those keen to enter the sector.

In respect of these points, it worth noting the following:

BBC Scotland regularly hosts in-house workshops and seminars which are open to freelancers, indies and other broadcasters.

- BBC Scotland's Apprenticeship Scheme is now in its fourth year. Launched in 2011 with Glasgow Kelvin College, Skillset Scotland and Skills Development Scotland, all 30 trainees in years 1-3 graduated with college qualifications, with 18 retained in BBC positions and 10 others either still working in the

industry or in further education courses. A further 10 apprentices are currently in place.

- In 2014, BBC Scotland established an Operation Skills Training Programme, enabling eight trainees to work across a range of craft areas.
- In 2014, BBC Scotland hosted 52 school work placements and 303 senior placements, including placements for students from more than 30 universities across the UK and beyond. Over 30 of those who undertook work experience placements in 2014 subsequently secured posts or paid employment with BBC Scotland.
- The BBC/C4 Formatted Factual Initiative has been received positively by the sector and it is hoped this will increase the number of returnable formatted strands.
- BBC Scotland continues, annually, to offer financial support to the Glasgow Caledonian University TV Fiction Writing Scholarships Course, helping to develop new writing talent for the industry.

## **Partnerships**

BBC Scotland's membership of groups such as Creative Clyde and the TV Broadcast Working Group, along with STV, C4, Creative Skillset, etc, has helped to develop a more co-ordinated approach to developing the broadcast sector in Scotland.

In addition to collaborative work around particular projects, such as with Glasgow City Council across all of the BBC's 2014 Commonwealth Games coverage (from the BBC Radio 1 Big Weekend in May, to the Games themselves and *Sports Personality of the Year* in December), BBC Scotland maintains a number of strategic partnerships, including:

## **MG ALBA**

BBC ALBA is jointly managed by BBC Scotland and MG ALBA. Now available on satellite, cable and DTT, it attracts an average weekly audience of over 700,000 viewers. MG ALBA contributes £12m to the service, which is spent on content (largely with independent broadcast production companies in Scotland); the BBC contributes £8m per annum to the service, which includes transmission, distribution and infrastructure costs.

## **STV**

An MOU between STV and BBC Scotland was signed in 2009. Regular liaison between the respective newsrooms has offered opportunities for the sharing of news clips, as appropriate, as well as facilities and resources. Training and skills development opportunities have been made available and shared and reciprocal arrangements put in place to allow archive materials to be made available for

projects undertaken by both broadcasters. STV Productions has also secured a number of BBC TV commissions, including *Antiques Road Trip*, quiz show *The Link*, *Country Show Cook Off* and the documentary on the Piper Alpha tragedy, *Fire in the Night*.

### **Creative Scotland**

The broadcast partnership between BBC Scotland and Creative Scotland, established by MOU in 2011, is multi-faceted. It embraces the cross-sector collaboration within the Television Broadcast & Production Working Group; representation on the Creative Clyde Strategic Development Group; and involvement in, and co-funding of, the Creative Skillset Drama Training Programme, which offers new training opportunities for freelancers in TV and film in Scotland.

Creative Scotland funded six artists in residence at BBC Scotland, to produce six films for BBC Arts Online and provided funding in support of the BBC Arts Screen Festival in Glasgow in April 2014. A number of independent productions for BBC have also benefitted from Creative Scotland development funding, in genres such as Drama, Children's and Gaelic.

### **Royal Conservatoire of Scotland**

The MOU between the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra (SSO) and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (RCS) has been in operation for nearly four years. It involves master-classes, work shadowing, mentoring and opportunities for the students to work alongside the musicians of the BBC SSO. Access to BBC Scotland radio drama staff and facilities, and to those on the River City set allow students to gain experience of set design, technical support, audio production and studio work. Most recently, students from the RCS joined the members of the SSO on its tour of India, with 13 students accompanying the musicians, along with two student filmmakers. The students will also play with the orchestra during its 2015 Scottish concert season.

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