

SUBMISSION FROM DAVID TAYLOR, FREELANCE LOCATION MANAGER  
AND PRODUCTION FIXER

[www.davidtaylor.tv](http://www.davidtaylor.tv) [david@davidtaylor.tv](mailto:david@davidtaylor.tv)

I am deeply aware of the fiscal benefits to the local economy when filming in a country. Approximately £25M of direct local expenditure is generated annually through production activity in Scotland. Film tourism accounts for 10% of the total value of tourism in the British .

20% of visitors to Scotland say that seeing Scotland on film or TV was important in their decision to book a Scottish holiday. In Scotland the film & television production industry directly employs approximately 9,000 people.

The link between tourism and Film and TV production is well documented.

Most notably this can be illustrated in the mid 90's when there were 3 films shot in Scotland that had a major impact. Rob Roy, Loch Ness and Braveheart. In the subsequent year, tourist spend in Scotland increased by 7% with 13% more visitors holidaying in Scotland. In the year of Braveheart's release, the Wallace Monument saw visitors increase by 52.1% and even established Stirling Castle saw an increase of 15.8% in visitor numbers.

More recently Glasgow City reported that there was a local spend in the calendar year 2011 of £20.15M. This is approximately double what Glasgow would expect in a normal year and is mainly attributed to 3 major films – namely World War Zee with Brad Pitt, Under the Skin with Scarlet Jonhanson and Cloud Atlas with Halle Berry. Outlander is about to film it second season in a converted factory in Cumbernauld.

Having said that the Film and TV sector is in dire need of investment if it is going to compete with other nations and regions of The United Kingdom. Most notably Northern Ireland and Wales.

Northern Ireland has dedicated studios and an attractive incentive scheme. I wrote to Lord Smith to suggest that Film and TV tax incentive be devolved to the Scottish Government, which was not put forward.

Now that corporation tax has been devolved to Northern Ireland they will be able to set tax incentives for Film Makers that could totally destroy the industry in Scotland.

Wales now has a dedicated film studio as well as Northern Ireland where in Scotland we have to make do with converted factory units. We are the only country in the Union that does not have a dedicated film studio.

The industry has gone through peaks and troughs and it impossible for any security for freelance staff and service companies.

There needs to be some urgent action to provide some stability in the industry that not only would let our indigenous Film and TV professionals flourish but

also provide ongoing income from tourist spend that peculates through the economy.

Basically we need to invest in a Film and TV studio complex in the central belt that can host multiple productions and to provide real financial incentives for productions rather than the current pittance administered by Creative Scotland.

We need to put investment into this sector that will reap rewards for the Nation.

David Taylor

Film and TV Location Manager

[david@davidtaylor.tv](mailto:david@davidtaylor.tv)

January 2015