

## SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSION FROM CREATIVE SCOTLAND

Dear Convener

I am writing following on from the meeting of the Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee on Wednesday 4 February 2015, at which the economic impact of the creative industries was discussed.

During the meeting you inquired as to support available for independent television producers to enable them to access commissions and export markets. We are pleased to provide you with additional information, as suggested by the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Europe and External Affairs, Fiona Hyslop.

Creative Scotland recognises that Scotland has a wealth of talented independent television producers and works to support the sector in a number of ways.

Since our creation in 2010, Creative Scotland has partnered with independent television producers to support the production of a range of programmes. For example, the ground-breaking new Gaelic language drama series, Bannan has received £795,083 in development and production funding, whilst the television adaptation of Iain Bank's penultimate book 'Stonemouth' received £200,000.

In addition to financial support for independent television producers, Creative Scotland also works with broadcasters in a range of partnerships in order to bring more coverage of Scottish arts and creativity to the Scottish viewing public. For example, Creative Scotland partnered with BBC Scotland on a strategic intervention with our specialist factual and factual entertainment independent producers in Scotland, increasing the number of projects being developed, providing greater access to commissioners and co-funding experienced Executive Producers and Series Producers to transfer high level skills to Scottish independent production companies.

Although we would not turn down a tv project solely on the basis that it did not have Scottish content, we have to ensure that the project has some cultural relevance in order to be confident in awarding lottery funds. Together with the Television Working Group we have advocated for an allocation of Grant in Aid funding for television production that would allow investment to be spread more widely.

Creative Scotland is only part of the funding landscape and we work in partnership with Scottish Enterprise, the Scottish Government, Local Authorities and a host of other partners to try and create the best conditions possible to allow the arts, screen and creative industries in Scotland to thrive at the grass-roots level.

For example, Creative Scotland works in partnership with the European Commission to deliver Creative Europe Desk UK, which provides advice and assistance to the cultural, creative and audiovisual sectors. In terms of support for independent television producers, Creative Europe can offer both development and production funding for television programmes with the potential to circulate within the EU and beyond.

The budget for television production within Creative Europe for this year is €11.8 million. The Creative Europe overall budget increases towards the end of the programme, so the amount in subsequent years is guaranteed to not be less than it is now. There is also Development funding for Single Project and Slate and that's available for television and features. This year's budget for single is €5.5 million and the budget this year for slate is €12 million. Our role as a media desk is to ensure Scotland has access to information, advice and guidance to support individuals and companies to make applications to this fund.

The key ambition set out in the Film Strategy: states that we want 'to position the screen sector at the heart of Scotland's economic and cultural life in a nation that celebrates the importance of every aspect of film culture'. In order to deliver fully against this, we will need to secure new resources, as identified by the TV Working Group. We are working with colleagues within the Scottish Government to explore how to achieve this.

I hope the above detail has provided you with more information on the support available for independent television producers. Please let me know should you require any further detail.

Yours sincerely

Janet Archer

**Chief Executive**

**3 March 2015**