

Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External
Affairs and Culture
Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson a' Bhun-reachd, Cùisean an
Taobh a-Muigh agus Cultar
Angus Robertson MSP/BPA



Scottish Government
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Fiona Sturgeon Shea
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Your Reference: -

2 November 2023

Dear Ms Sturgeon Shea,

Thank you for your letter of 02 October to myself and the Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development, Christina McKelvie regarding the recent decision taken by Scottish Government on funding commitments for Creative Scotland. As I have responsibility for the culture portfolio budget, your correspondence has been passed to me to respond.

Firstly, the Scottish Government values the importance of the arts, especially their significant contribution to wellbeing and to the cultural, social and economic life in communities across Scotland.

I recognise that this is an incredibly worrying time for the culture sector as a whole, not least for those who work in it. Over the last five years, Scottish Government has provided over £33m to Creative Scotland to compensate for a shortfall in National Lottery funding. As a result of rising costs and pressure on budgets across government, we are unable to make up the ongoing shortfall this year.

The Board of Creative Scotland has agreed to provide £6.6m this year from its funding reserves which total £17m. This will mean that their Regularly Funded Organisations will not receive reduced funding this financial year. Subject to the usual Parliamentary processes, we will provide the National Lottery shortfall funding of £6.6m to Creative Scotland in 2024/2025. Consideration of the National Lottery shortfall funding in future years will be subject to the usual budget consideration process.

The First Minister announced on 17 October that the Scottish Government's investment in arts and culture will more than double, so that in five years our investment will be £100 million higher than it is now. This is a huge vote of confidence of our cultural sector and will help to protect this treasured Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

Tha Ministearanna h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

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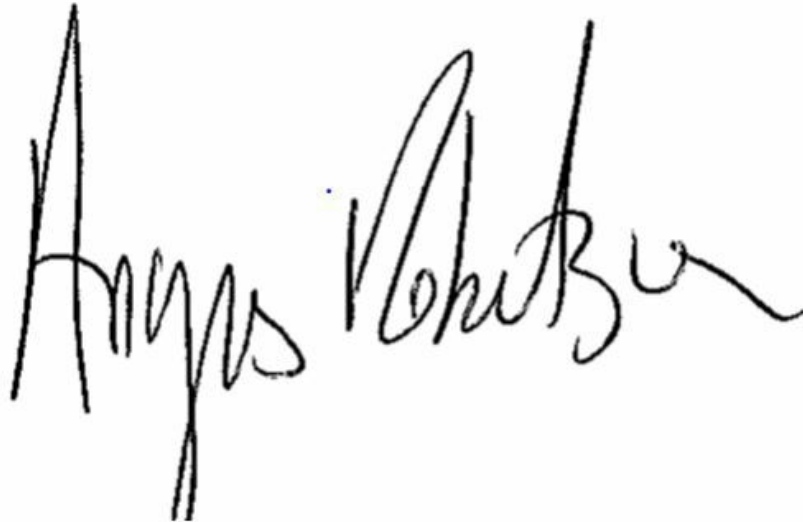


sector and the impact it makes on people's lives.

Through this increased investment we want to drive up opportunities for participation in creative pursuits, support the production of new works, and ensure that Scotland's cultural output has platforms at home and abroad.

As we navigate through the current uncertainties and economic challenges, the Scottish Government is committed to keep working with the culture sector as we progress towards our shared goals for culture and the arts. We will also continue to work across government to look at ways of responding to the very clear challenges that exist for people and organisations in the culture sector at present.

Kind regards,



ANGUS ROBERSTON

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