



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

NOTES

Creative Scotland Board meeting 19 December 2022 09.30 – 11.00 Via Teams

Present:

Robert Wilson (RW)	Chair
Malath Abbas (MA)	Board Member
Yahya Barry (YB)	Board Member
David Brew (DB)	Board Member
Duncan Cockburn (DC)	Board Member
Stephanie Fraser (SF)	Board Member
Philip Long (PL)	Board Member
Carol Main (CM)	Board Member
Sarah Munro (SM)	Board Member
David Strachan (DS)	Board Member

Apologies:

Elizabeth Partyka (EP)	Board Member
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In Attendance:

Iain Munro (IM)	Chief Executive
Anne Langley (AL)	Executive Director, Operations
Ian Stevenson (IS)	Director, Finance
Lyndon Jones (LJ)	Notes

1.	Apologies and Register of Interest
1.1	<u>Apologies</u> Apologies were noted from Elizabeth Partyka.
	<u>Register of Interest</u> There were no interests related to the agenda.
2.	Draft Budget 2023/24

Overall reactions

Extreme disappointment and deep concern was expressed at the SG decision, and unhappiness about the need to consider, and SG expectation of, the use of National Lottery reserves to address the funding reduction. There is still a question over future years SG budgets to aid planning but the signals all point to continuing reductions in the years ahead.

The proposed 2023/24 budget would be put to the Scottish Parliament in February for approval, with the Cabinet Secretary understood to be appearing before the Committee in January for pre-budget scrutiny. The ability to use Creative Scotland's reserves would be a one-off intervention and will lead to a review in overall planning for the introduction of the multi-year funding stream and the strategic support that would be provided around that process. It was noted that the overall initial sector reaction was relatively muted, possibly awaiting the outcome of the Board discussion and decision today.

The position of the National Lottery was discussed, noting that CS had the ability to make this decision on reserves. The Board asked if there was a full understanding of the current and ongoing financial position of the individual organisations supported through the RFO network. It was confirmed that a process was in place for Lead Officers to record details provided to them by the RFO's and to flag organisations at risk. This is then discussed at regular meetings with SG officials. CS is offering flexibility over the use of RFO annual funding and many organisations are necessarily reviewing their plans and operations to adapt to the pressures of the current environment.

All agreed that the communication out of this Board meeting was important and would need to underline the Board's disappointment at the SG budget decision, that the use of National Lottery reserves was a one-off, and there would be negative impacts on Creative Scotland's other funding plans. The notion of 'standstill' funding was discussed, recognising in reality that it means the same financial amount but is a cut in real terms once inflation and other costs pressures are taken into account.

The Board also discussed the process of accessing SG funding going forward and viewed the current controls in place as extremely difficult to work within. It would be requested that SG approval be given for programme level budgets, allowing Creative Scotland to open the fund with the approved budget in place. The Senior Leadership Team would review overall financial planning in the new year, and noting that Creative Scotland Strategic Priorities become even more important in any interventions in the current financial climate.

Beyond funding, there is a need for further sector advice and support on managing the current challenges, and Creative Scotland has had initial discussions with Arts and Business Scotland regarding the potential for an enhanced programme of its activities.

RFO and Screen Line approvals

Having approved the use of National Lottery reserves to offset the SG budget reduction, the Board was asked to approve the 120 RFO awards for 2023/24 and

	<p>the creation of a Film Festival/Cultural Cinema line, at the same level as had formerly been provided to CMI. The Board noted that whilst the use of National Lottery reserves would provide some stability and confidence to RFO's, the concern was that the resources were therefore not otherwise available to provide the wider strategic support which had been previously planned. The funding picture beyond 2023/24 was again raised as a concern.</p> <p><u>Next Steps</u> External communications would be circulated this afternoon, through the RFO network, online and through social media. In the new year further details on approach on financial strategy would be discussed with the Board. Request to Board members to raise awareness of the current situation through their networks.</p>
3.	Any other business
	There were no items.
4.	Date of next meeting
	26 January 2023 10.00 – 13.00 Waverley Gate

