



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

MINUTES

**Board meeting
20 January 2022
10.00 to 12.00
Via Teams**

Present:

Robert Wilson (RW)	Chair
Malath Abbas (MA)	Board Member
Ewan Angus (EA)	Board Member
Yahya Barry (YB)	Board Member
David Brew (DB)	Board Member
Duncan Cockburn (DC)	Board Member
Duncan Hendry (DH)	Board Member
Philip Long (PL)	Board Member
Carol Main (CM)	Board Member
Sarah Munro (SM)	Board Member
Elizabeth Partyka (EP)	Board Member
David Strachan (DS)	Board Member

Apologies:

Stephanie Fraser (SF)	Board Member
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In Attendance:

Iain Munro (IM)	Chief Executive
Isabel Davis (ID)	Executive Director (for item 6)
Ian Stevenson (IS)	Director Finance (for items 4 and 7)
Lyndon Jones (LJ)	Minutes

1.	Apologies and declarations of interest
1.1	Apologies Apologies were noted from SF.

1.2	New Declarations of Interest or relevant to the agenda There were no new declarations or declarations relevant to the agenda.
2.	Previous minutes
2.1a	Board meeting – 25 November 2021 With a small amendment to the minutes relating to item 3.2a regarding the attendance of the new Committee member, all agreed this was an accurate record of the meeting.
2.1b	Board call – 17 December 2021 All agreed they were an accurate record of the meeting.
2.2	Matters arising There were no matters arising out of the minutes.
3.	Committee Updates
3.1a 3.1b	Screen Committee – 21 September 2021 Whilst the notes of the meeting of the 21 September had been reported in the October meeting, the Chair provided a further update on the ongoing consultation on the privatisation of Channel 4, with support from SF, input had been able to be included in the debate at the House of Lords. Screen Committee – 14 December 2021 The meeting had discussed the announcement of the operator of Kelvin Hall with BBC StudioWorks winning the contract, marked with a press event including IM, the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Glasgow City Council Leader, and Tim Davie (DG of BBC). The memorandum of understanding between ScSc and the BBC had also been signed, continuing the commitments made in the first MoU and building on the strategic priority for more content to be made in Scotland. The Committee also noted the announcement of Muriel Gray in her appointment as Scotland National member for the Board of the BBC. Also discussed was the report on the economic impact of the screen sector in Scotland, which will be published shortly.
3.2	Audit and Risk – 18 November 2021 As the item was reported at the November Board meeting, the Chair confirmed that unless there were further questions on sight of the minutes, there was no further update.
3.3	Finance and General Purposes – 27 October 2021 In addition to what was reported at the November Board meeting, the Chair confirmed that the policy paper on Staff and Related Parties was still being finalised and would be circulated to the Board when ready. For information, the Chair would be meeting with Patrick Brown, the new Committee member, before the February meeting.
4.	Emergency Funding update
	IS joined for this agenda item.

	<p>IM provided an update on emergency funding as a result of the announcement of further support from SG to address the restrictions in place due to Omicron and the impacts on the creative sector.</p> <p>The £4m Cancellation Fund for Freelancers is open and received just under 1700 applications so far. Cancellation context different across the sectors. The average request is coming in at £1700. £1m in payments have been processed so far. Given the early surge in demand had reduced significantly, it is proposed that the fund pauses on Monday 24 January, to enable conversations with SG on the balance and allows CS capacity to move to processing the Cancellation Fund for Cultural Organisations with opens on the 26 January.</p> <p>Data capture returned from the Freelancers fund showed that the highest proportion of requests had come from the music sector followed by theatre. Also confirmed was the previous underspend in 2021 emergency funds had largely been deployed into the Culture Collective programme.</p> <p>The Cancellation Fund for Cultural Organisations, set at £25m, will open for applications on 26 January. The fund had been discussed in detail with the Cabinet Secretary and Culture Minister. In questioning an understanding of greatest need, the Board were informed that evidence of immediate financial risk or insolvency will be prioritised by CS. There have been some external questions about applicants being able to apply for losses arising from reduced capacity, but the approach is for cancellation which can also apply regarding venue hire cancellation or cancelled workshops. Calculation of any award will be based on evidence of cancellation or postponement between 27 November and the 31 March. Risk management was discussed given the diversity of likely applicants and business types.</p> <p>It was noted that there is anticipated to be an element of Board sign off required for organisations that will seek more than £500k of support. The suggested approach, agreed by the Board, was to establish an ad-hoc sub-committee of individual Board Members (EP, DS, DB) and anyone else who wishes to volunteer.</p> <p>Out of the £6.5m of emergency funding that was set aside for further sector recovery, there would be a £2.5m fund for Independent Cinemas, given they were not covered by the scope of the cancellation fund for organisations.</p> <p>Conversations would continue with SG Officials around options for any underspend on any of the funds.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Chief Executive Report</p>
	<p>Framing the content of the report, IM stated that the series of Scottish Government meetings had continued positively and conversations were increasingly about building confidence back into the sector and in audiences who may continue to be reticent to resume attendance. The Spending Review was discussed and IM noted how an increase in core subsidy levels can help manage the 'rollercoaster' of challenges presented by COVID. CS has been asked to</p>

	<p>provide some input on financial modelling to support the Spending Review process.</p> <p>The report noted the SG Fraud Risk Review across COVID-19 business support, with CS schemes COVR and PAVR passing with low risk, the only funds to secure this rating from all those above £10m delivered across a range of public bodies. The Board wished to record their thanks for this significant achievement.</p> <p>IM thanked DC and DH for agreeing to participate in the Future Funding Framework group, with YB joining as an observer. IM noted that the impact of delivery of emergency funds had to be taken into account when it came to managing expectations around the timeline of the work currently planned.</p> <p>Also noted was the very positive response to the recruitment of the two Executive Directors, with the process continuing through February.</p>
6	Screen Scotland Update
	<p>ID joined for this agenda item.</p> <p>ID shared that ScSc had noted that the requests from their sector on emergency funds was different to other areas of the creative sector. Applications to the Freelance fund was low, linked to the positivity of buoyant production activity. Infrastructure developments continue with Kelvin Hall announcement, along-side with ScSc engagement with the new owners of the Pyramids and Ward Park. The first cohort of Little Pictures films have been produced and will have their theatrical screening as part of the Glasgow Film Festival in March.</p> <p>Update to overall resources were provided, noting the successful recruitment of the Head of Film Education to succeed Scott Donaldson on his retirement in March. Also noted was the BECTU announcement of the appointment of their first Sustainability Hub Manager who will be a key intervention in an advisory role to help in the area of screen sustainability. This role is joint funded between BECTU, CS, SE, SOSE and HIE.</p>
7.	Terms of Reference – A&R and F&GP
	<p>IS rejoined for this agenda item.</p> <p>The Board were asked to review and agree the proposed amendments to the A&R and F&GP Committee Terms of Reference. Both sets had been reviewed last year and with some proposed minor changes presented in the papers. The Screen Committee Terms of Reference had been agreed at the Board in 2020 and would be reviewed at a forthcoming meeting, allowing all three to be reviewed and approved by the Board in same cycle going forward.</p> <p>The Board were content to approve both Terms of Reference.</p>
8.	AOB
	There were no items for AOB.

9.	Date of next meeting
	24 February 2022 Due to be via Teams, although may be reviewed once any changes to restrictions are announced by SG.

Rebel Wilson

Approved