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Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture  
[CEEAC.committee@Parliament.Scot](mailto:CEEAC.committee@Parliament.Scot)

19 December 2024  
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Dear Convener,

### **Budget scrutiny 2025/26**

I am writing to provide a short update on Creative Scotland's anticipated budget position for 2025/26.

This follows the publication of the Scottish Government's draft budget on 04 December and is ahead of the evidence session with the Committee on 09 January, at which I will be happy to take questions and expand further.

Following the announcement of the significant uplift in budget for Culture in the draft budget, we issued the following statement:

Creative Scotland wholeheartedly welcomes the positive news of the substantial uplift for Culture, including Creative Scotland, in the [Scottish Government's draft budget](#) announced today.

In 2025/26, Creative Scotland's draft Grant-in-Aid budget from the Scottish Government will be £80m, up from £51.4m in the previous year. Included in this is an additional £20m, specifically for use in supporting the Multi-Year Funding programme and an additional £2m to support delivery of [Screen Scotland's strategy](#).

The Board of Creative Scotland will meet on 16 December to agree the final budget for Multi-Year Funding and a further update will be made following that meeting. The final outcomes from the programme will be announced by the end of January.

Creative Scotland's Chair, Robert Wilson, said:

*"Today's draft budget announcement by the Scottish Government is enormously welcome. The major boost to Multi-Year Funding and other activities opens up wider opportunities, and we are grateful to the Scottish Government for this significant vote of confidence in Creative Scotland and the creative and culture sector."*

*"This is especially positive in the light of the long-term financial challenges the sector has been dealing with and will enable people and organisations to once again look forward with more confidence."*

I would like to reiterate the sentiment expressed by Robert in this statement and recognise the significance of the settlement for Culture, and for Creative Scotland, that is inherent in this draft budget.

Since the budget announcement, further details have been made available by the Scottish Government as regards the full extent of the Grant-in-Aid funding being made available to Creative Scotland in 2025/26, as well as extremely positive intentions for budget provision in 2026/27.

These are set out in detail in the Cabinet Secretary's letter to the Committee dated 11 December, however as more detail has since been provided to us, I will also set out what this means for Creative Scotland as follows.

### **Scottish Government draft budget 2025/26**

Key to the draft budget announcement for Creative Scotland is an additional £20m in 2025/26 specifically to support organisations through Multi-Year Funding, and, significantly, a further £20m in 2026/26, also to support Multi-Year Funding. This means that in 2025/26, Creative Scotland will have £54m in Grant-in-Aid to support Multi-Year Funding, rising to £74m in 2026/27.

After our Board meeting on 16 December, we issued the following statement by way of further update:

[Creative Scotland warmly welcomed](#) the Scottish Government's draft budget announced earlier this month, which included a significant uplift in proposed budgets for Culture and for Creative Scotland in 2025/26. The Board of Creative Scotland met on 16 December to discuss this draft budget further.

With further details now provided by the Scottish Government, we can confirm that Creative Scotland's draft Grant-in-Aid budget from the Scottish Government in 2025/26 is £89m, up from £66.5m in the previous year. Included in this is an additional £20m, specifically for use in supporting the Multi-Year Funding programme, £3m extra for EXPO festival support, an additional £2m for Screen Scotland's Production Growth Fund, £0.3m more for the Youth Music Initiative (YMI), and £4m for the Culture Collective initiative.

This budget, coupled with the Scottish Government's aim to provide a further additional £20m for Multi-Year Funding in 2026/27, as set out in the [Cabinet Secretary's recent letter](#) to the Culture Committee, means that we will have £54m for the Multi-Year Funding programme funding in 2025/26, and £74m in 2026/27.

Finally, we can also confirm that the Board of Creative Scotland will meet again in January to approve the final set of recommendations for the Multi-Year Funding programme and that all applicants will be informed of the outcome on 30 January.

Iain Munro, Creative Scotland Chief Executive said:

*"The very positive outcome for Culture, and for Creative Scotland, as set out in the Scottish Government's draft budget announcement, means that we can now move*

*forward with confidence in concluding the Multi-Year Funding application process. The additional funding to be provided for this programme both next financial year and, significantly, in the year to follow, is very welcome and I am pleased we can now commit to announcing the outcome for all organisations that have applied to Stage 2 on 30 January."*

What this means is that we will be able to support many more organisations that are successful in their applications, through Multi-Year Funding than we had previously anticipated.

As a reminder for the Committee, we received 285 applications to Stage 2 of the Multi-Year Funding programme, with an annual ask of £87.4m. We are in the final stages of assessing those applications and will be announcing the outcome on 30 January.

### **Scottish Government review of funding for culture, including Creative Scotland**

I also note the Cabinet Secretary's update to the Committee as regards plans for the previously announced review of funding for culture, including Creative Scotland. We will support this review and contribute to it constructively, to deliver the best conditions for the sector to thrive and strengthen Creative Scotland's role in support of that ambition.

I also concur with the Cabinet Secretary's comments regarding the relationship between Creative Scotland and Scottish Government, both Officials and Ministers, which is always open, cordial and constructive, and we will work hard to ensure that continues.

In closing, I'd like to wish you and all Committee members a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year and I look forward to meeting with you again at the evidence session on 09 January.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Iain Munro". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'I'.

Iain Munro  
Chief Executive