



## INDEPENDENT PRODUCERS SCOTLAND LIMITED

### Response to BBC Charter renewal

The BBC is the most important cultural institution in the United Kingdom. Its influence around the world and at home cannot be overestimated: it is at the heart of cultural export and the domestic creative industries. That is the role it should aspire to in Scotland.

IPS believe that broadcast production is an essential part of a country's infrastructure. And in Scotland it is chronically underdeveloped. We are subject to the imperial power of the BBC, centred in London. They do not 'get' the new Scotland and its independent spirit. We want to see change, a shift in emphasis in the relationship between the BBC and BBC Scotland, between BBC Scotland and independent producers in Scotland, between BBC Scotland and its audience. This is an opportunity to be bold, taking initiatives that are sustainable and for the long term rather than a "quick fix" in response to the immediate political situation.

- BBC Scotland should be part of a federal system, accountable to its own Scottish Board of Trustees and answerable to the Scottish Parliament, with appropriate safeguards for its editorial independence.
- BBC Scotland should operate its own broadcast television network visible throughout the UK.
- BBC Scotland needs to be charged with growing local talent and companies to produce programmes that reflect Scottish life and culture back to Scotland - and to the UK and beyond.
- BBC Scotland should prioritise investing in developing and commissioning drama from Scottish producers
- BBC Worldwide needs to remain part of the publicly owned BBC and become an active partner in Scottish co-production investment.
- *To go to the party, you need to take a bottle...* In other European nations television is an important contributing partner to finance and distribution plans: a BBC Scotland fund for co-production would be a huge boost to the creative sector.
- BBC Scotland currently works on the Reithian operating principle - it should allow Scotland 'to speak unto itself'. IPS calls for this BBC principle or definition to be extended in the new Charter to allow for Scotland speaking unto itself - and the wider world
- Commissioning power in Scotland with budgets to produce quality shows for Scotland, Network, and International audiences.

The BBC in Scotland has an opportunity to be a creative leader that is an example to the UK, and an example of how a UK institution should respond pro-actively and effectively to the realities of a nation that has embraced lasting devolution.