



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

CULTURE, TOURISM EUROPE AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

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By email

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Dear Dr Wilson

Screen Sector Leadership Report

On 30 March 2017, the Scottish Parliament's Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee took evidence from the Screen Sector Leadership Group (SSLG) on their recent [report](#).¹

The report makes a number of specific recommendations aimed at developing the sector through enhanced vision, leadership, infrastructure and funding. At the meeting on 30 March, members of the Committee discussed proposals for an enhanced Screen Unit and its suggested functions, which included:

- an expanded remit across the sector
- close working partnership agreement public bodies especially Scottish enterprise, Skills Development Scotland and Creative Scotland

¹

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S5_European/General%20Documents/CTEER_2017.02.13_SSLG_Final_Report_January2017.pdf

- an increase in resources
- a clearly defined leadership role for cultural and economic development across the sector, and
- a governance model which prioritises advice from the sector itself.

Members of the Committee would be interested to know how Scottish Enterprise plans to support the new Screen Unit, in line with the recommendations outlined above.

In their evidence to the Committee, members of the SSLG also raised concerns about the role of Scottish Enterprise in the development of the sector. For example, Jane Muirhead stated that:

“The impression that the independent sector gets from Scottish Enterprise just now is that it feels that TV production in Scotland has flatlined, but I could cite so many examples to show that that is not the case.”

John McCormick, Chair of the SSLG went on to say:

“Real progress will not be made until a realistic co-operative partnership is established between Creative Scotland and Scottish Enterprise for working towards shared objectives.”

Given these comments, members of the Committee would be interested to know what efforts are being made by Scottish Enterprise to foster a more productive relationship with Creative Scotland and what measures are in place to ensure sufficient support is provided to the sector to ensure its continued success. Evidence of the level of investment would be very helpful.

Finally, the report acknowledges the need for improved infrastructure to support the sector, stating that:

“Many production teams come to Scotland, make their film and depart leaving no legacy in terms of contribution to the long-term sustainability of the industry. Improved infrastructure, especially a film studio, is crucial if these individual projects are to contribute to the development of a permanent skills base here in Scotland.”

The Committee understands that the Scottish Government has recently given permission in principle for the Pentlands development, subject to conditions. Members would be interested to gauge Scottish Enterprise’s reaction to these proposals, and how you think this development will contribute to the sector more generally.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Joan McAlpine MSP
Convener
European and External Relations Committee