

**Evidence to CTEEA inquiry on Covid 19 Impact on Culture**

**Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work and Culture**

**Thursday May 21, 2020**

**Link to full session is here:**

<https://www.scottishparliament.tv/meeting/culture-tourism-europe-and-external-affairs-committee-may-21-2020>

**Members of Culture Committee present:**

Convenor: Joan McAlpine MSP (SNP, South Scotland)

Deputy Convenor: Claire Baker MSP (Labour, Mid Scotland and Fife)

Annabelle Ewing MSP (SNP, Cowdenbeath)

Gordon Lindhurst MSP (Conservative, Lothian)

Stuart McMillan MSP (SNP, Greenock and Inverclyde)

Oliver Mundell MSP (Conservative, Dumfriesshire)

Beatrice Wishart MSP (Lib Dem, Shetland)

The focus in this session was theatre and music, with some attention to museums, screen and individual workers/ artists.

Key quotes from Fiona Hyslop and points below, along with areas where we can make further representation.

**1. General recognition of importance for support of culture sector**

*'Culture is the lifeblood of Scotland'*

*'The power of culture helps us reach into the unknown.'*

## 2. Funding and moving from emergency support to long-term needs

Scottish Government funds for newly self-employed, Pivotal Enterprises Resilience Fund, Creative Industries, Hospitality and Tourism Hardship Fund have been put in place to address a cashflow issue.

Decisions going out now.

- Creative Industries, Hospitality and Tourism Hardship Fund – ¼ went to culture sector
- Pivotal Enterprises Resilience Fund – 1/5 went to creative industries

These funds are not the end of the story.

Next step is to look at particular business needs: *'I'm very conscious we need to be more responsive to individual needs when we can'*

Financial instruments will be needed over a longer period of time. Thinking about endowments; working with banks. Open to creative thinking.

## 3. Individuals self-employed / freelance

Scottish Government and others can and should continue to push UK Government for change and flexibility in SEISS fund as it evolves, as happened with the furlough scheme.

*'We need to be focused about what we need, and why and when.'*

*'Just because art and performance isn't taking place doesn't mean you take money away from that area.'*

Recognition of issues around studio space and payment. *'Having studio space is important and how do you pay for that?'*

*'The argument around supporting individual artists is important in ensuring people understand that you can't just wake up and come back to performances and venues and the artists come out of nowhere.'*

*'There is a need for finance to enable artists and musicians to be creative.'*

#### 4. Infrastructure

Culture projects in city and growth deals – there is a case for bringing forward infrastructure spend in city deals. *‘Culture should be seen as a beacon of hope.’*

Emphasised importance of working collaboratively and innovatively; looking at ways that existing buildings and spaces are used and whether they could be used differently.

Discussed potential for structural support for increased online work.

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