

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for
Covid Recovery
An Leas Phrìomh Mhinistear agus Ath-shlànachadh
Cobhid
John Swinney BPA/MSP



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Moira Jeffrey
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Our Reference: 202300341405
Your Reference: Scottish Budget 2023-2024

7 March 2023

Dear Ms Jeffrey ,

Thank you for your email regarding the reduction in funding provided to Creative Scotland in the 2023-24 draft Scottish Government budget.

Firstly, the Scottish Government values the importance of the culture sector for the many benefits they can bring such as nurturing creativity, providing employment and improving the health and wellbeing in communities across Scotland.

I recognise that this is an incredibly worrying time for the culture sector as a whole, most notably against a backdrop of continued impacts from Covid-19, the cost of living crisis and inflationary pressures outside of our control. However, the Scottish Government's ability to respond to the current financial context is limited by the inactivity of the UK Government and the financial restrictions of devolution, which required prioritised spending and extremely hard funding decisions in the budget had to be made.

Nevertheless, the Scottish Government is in regular dialogue with the sector, most recently through holding a series of roundtable discussions. While we have had to make difficult choices to live within budgets, we have also listened to the concerns raised by the culture sector. In response, as announced on 21 February, the Scottish Government will provide an uplift of £6.6 million for Creative Scotland for 2023-24 to ensure their accumulated lottery funding reserves can supplement rather than replace grant funding. We expect Creative Scotland to set out quickly for the culture sector how it will use these additional resources to support organisations at this difficult time.

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Tha Ministearanna h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

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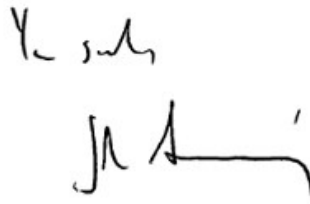


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This decision means that the Scottish Government is continuing to compensate Creative Scotland for a 6th year for generally reduced lottery funding and over six years we will have provided a total of £40 million.

The Scottish Government will continue to work with the culture sector to identify barriers to immediate and long-term recovery, and the Scottish Government will continue to do everything within our powers and resources to help those most affected by current economic challenges.



JOHN SWINNEY

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