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Clare Adamson  
Convener  
Constitution, External Affairs & Culture Committee

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18 September 2024

Dear Claire,

Thank you for your letter of 10 September in response to mine dated 04 September about the Programme for Government commitment to ‘review the way the culture sector is supported, including a review of Creative Scotland.’

You specifically ask for more information about the scope, timescales for completion and process for the review as well as further clarity about what led Creative Scotland to close the ‘Open Fund for Individuals’ to new applications.

### **The Review**

Scoping of the review is at an early stage. The Scottish Government sector support review will consider ways to maximise the impact of available public funding for culture, and work with private and third sector partners to examine ways to grow the overall funding pot, diversify funding streams and support the sector to become more sustainable. Public sector support for culture in Scotland goes beyond funding and the review will also consider what can be done to help the sector to navigate current and future challenges and make the most of opportunities for collaborative working.

Creative Scotland is the main distributor of the Scottish Government’s culture sector funding and a review of Creative Scotland is a necessary part of the wider piece of work about how the culture sector is supported. The Creative Scotland review will be collaborative and will necessarily involve Creative Scotland. The Scottish Government can confirm at this stage that the review will cover all support that Creative Scotland provides to the culture sector including through Screen Scotland.

Further details on the review process will be set out in due course, including proposed timings and how the culture sector and other interested parties, including the Committee, can input into the review.

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## Closure of Creative Scotland's Open Fund

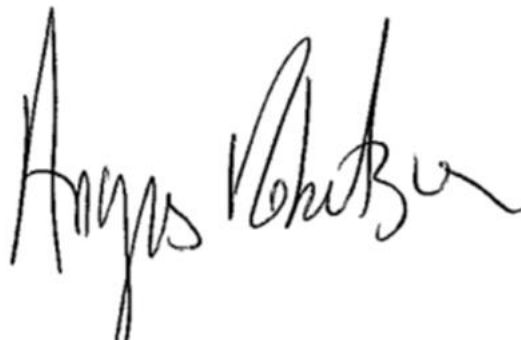
Creative Scotland's 'Open Fund for Individuals' is funded, in the main, through National Lottery funding. As per the normal budget process, Creative Scotland was made aware of its provisional allocation of Scottish Government grant in aid in December 2023 when the Scottish Budget Bill for 2024-25 entered the Scottish Parliament. Following passage of the Bill and due diligence on how Creative Scotland intended to use the funding, the vast majority of Creative Scotland funding for 2024-25 was released in April 2024. This was accompanied by a request to Creative Scotland to provide a breakdown of how an additional £6.6 million of Scottish Government funding was going to be deployed.

This information was received by Scottish Government in June and underwent due diligence before being approved for release. Creative Scotland was notified of this on 03 September following the Deputy First Minister's fiscal statement which provided necessary clarity on proposed cross-portfolio budget savings.

Following notification that the additional £6.6 million would be released, Creative Scotland issued a press release on 17 September stating that the open fund will reopen on 08 October. The Scottish Government welcomes that announcement given the importance of the open fund for individual artists and creative producers across the sector.

I hope this information is helpful and I look forward to our pre-budget scrutiny of culture funding discussion at the evidence session scheduled for 03 October.

Yours sincerely,



**ANGUS ROBERTSON**

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