



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Kenneth Gibson MSP  
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The Scottish Parliament  
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Dear Kenneth,

The Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture (CEEAC) Committee has today published our pre-budget report on funding for culture.

[Pre-Budget Scrutiny 2024-25: Funding for Culture | Scottish Parliament](#)

A considerable development which occurred during the course of our pre-budget scrutiny was the reinstatement of a £6.6 million reduction to Creative Scotland's grant-in-aid for 2023-24 in the Autumn Budget Revision (ABR). This reduction had originally been proposed in the draft Budget, and was then reversed during the Stage 3 debate on the Budget (Scotland) (No. 2) Bill.

The decision by the Parliament to agree Budget 2023-24 included consideration of additional funding commitments made at Stage 3 of the Budget process. This included the commitment to reverse the proposed £6.6 million cut to Creative Scotland's funding. The detail of the budget revisions for the increased funding commitments was to be reported to Parliament as part of the ABR.

Creative Scotland wrote to the Committee on 27 September stating that it was "extremely disappointed to report that the £6.6m budget has not been included in the Autumn Budget Revisions, and the cut is being reinstated."<sup>1</sup> The ABR states that reprioritisation of budgets "have been necessary due to continued inflationary pressures, including on public sector pay, and to support priority areas" but does not

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/committees/constitution-europe-external-affairs-and-culture-committee/update-from-creative-scotland-on-budget-2324.pdf>

mention the commitment made at Stage 3 and no explanation is provided in the supporting document.

As the commitment at Stage 3 to reverse the proposed £6.6 million reduction to Creative Scotland was not included as an amendment to the Budget Bill, the reinstatement of this cut was not required to be formally reported in the ABR, given there was no revision from the Budget Bill.

However, the Committee considers that there should have been an explanation within the accompanying documents as to why the commitment made at Stage 3 of the Budget process, the detail of which was to be reported in the ABR, was then not included in the ABR.

We agreed to bring this matter to the attention of the Finance and Public Administration Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Clare Adamson MSP, Convener of the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee