



Jen Hunter  
jennifer@culturecounts.scot

Our Reference: 202100186409  
Your Reference: Extension of the Culture Recovery Fund

26 March 2021

Dear Jen,

Thank you for your letter of 18 March 2021 to Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for the Economy, Fair Work and Culture regarding further funding for the culture sector. I have been asked to respond.

In accordance with the guidance for the pre-election period, which commenced on 25 March, correspondence is being responded to by officials until Ministers are appointed following the 6 May elections.

The Scottish Government continues to be acutely aware of the significant challenges the culture and arts sector is facing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the consequent restrictions required. We are aware of the hardship and anxiety that so many people across the creative sector are undergoing at the moment, and the very difficult circumstances in which they find themselves.

The Scottish Government does not want to keep any restrictions in place for longer than is necessary.

The Covid situation is still serious and it is important that we continue to minimise the spread of the virus. However, as you will be aware from the First Minister's announcement on 16 March, we are working, in partnership with stakeholders from the culture and events sector, on a route-map towards an incremental and cautious re-opening of live indoor events. The Scottish Government welcomes the involvement of Culture Counts in this work.

Since the start of the pandemic, to aid in recovery and resilience, the Scottish Government has

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provided over £140m in support to the culture and heritage sector.

At the time of the pre-election period commencing on 25 March, no decisions on additional funding for the culture sector have been reached.

You will be aware that on 3 March the Chancellor of the Exchequer confirmed that the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and the Self-employed Income Support schemes will be extended to the end of September.

The Scottish Government will do all that is possible to ensure any future recovery funding aligns with longer-term rebuilding and renewal. While suppressing COVID-19 and ensuring the safety of Scotland's workforce rightly remains our priority, this will involve continuing to work with all sectors to sharpen our focus on rebuilding for the future.

Yours sincerely

Catherine Stobo

**CHE : Sponsorship and Funding**

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