

# SCREEN SCOTLAND SGRÌN ALBA

## Commercial and in confidence

### MINUTES Screen Committee meeting 27 June 2023; 15:00 – 17:00 MS Teams

#### Present:

David Strachan (DGS)	Chair/CS Board Member
Elizabeth Partyka (EP)	CS Board Member
Mal Abbas (MA)	CS Board Member
Isabel Davis (ID)	Executive Director, Screen
Anne Langley (AL)	Executive Director, Operations
David Smith (DWS)	Director, Screen

#### Attending:

Anna Collopy (AC) Executive Officer/Minute-taker

No.	Item
<b>0.</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Apologies</b>
<b>0.1</b>	Apologies from Iain Munro and Meghan Bain. Anne Langley welcomed as new attendee.
<b>1.</b>	<b>Governance Papers</b>
1.1	<b>Review action items</b> It was noted that all action items are up to date. The committee agreed to increase number of formal meetings from four to six per year, with each HoD to attend once per year to present an update to the Committee. <b>ACTION: MB to update Committee meeting schedule from four to six formal meetings per year.</b>
1.2	<b>Risk Register</b> The committee spent a significant amount of time interrogating the risk register. DWS introduced the revised Risk Register structure that now aligns with the wider Creative Scotland Corporate Risk Register. It was noted throughout the Risk Register that Screen Scotland GIA funding remains unconfirmed. This will not be confirmed until the

	<p>Autumn Budget Statement, anytime from August to November. It was noted that Screen Scotland is aiming to publish the 2021 Economic Value Report before this date.</p> <p>Items below were discussed and amended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SCR-1: Competitiveness</li> <li>• SCR-6: Political 3 (Subsidy Control)</li> <li>• SCR-22: Technological Development</li> <li>• SCR-12: Staff Resource – Structural</li> <li>• SCR-13: Staff Resource – Retention</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION: ID/DWS/AC to update Risk Register to include PSB ability to commission from Scotland.</b></p> <p><b>ACTION: ID/DWS/AC to update Risk Register to include the development of succession and mitigation planning for SCR-12 &amp; SCR-13.</b></p> <p><b>ACTION: MB to share Ops Dashboard with committee for future meetings</b></p>
1.3	<p><b>Assessed Applications FY 23/24</b></p> <p>The Screen Scotland Management Accounts are not currently available as the Finance team is focusing on the implementation of the new Finance system. In place of Management Accounts, the Committee was presented with a copy of a spreadsheet detailing the assessed and approved applications to date this financial year. The committee was notified that this did not include figures for; Professional Development, Markets and Festivals, Strategic Partnerships, Screen Commissions, or other purchase orders. It was noted that the Film Development &amp; Production Fund is expected to be under immense pressure this year. The committee also discussed patterns that have emerged over the last few years across the Broadcast Content Fund. The budget remains fully committed every year, with an increase in large drama and entertainment projects consuming more of the funding. There has been a sustained ask around slate development and individual project development in recent years.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Screen Scotland Update</b>
2.1	<p><b>Advocacy</b></p> <p>The Media Bill has been published but not yet tabled, and there is uncertainty if it will make its way to the Parliamentary timetable this year. DWS and ID expressed concern over the lack of reference to Gaelic language and the shift from percentage to number-based quotas. Screen Scotland’s engagement is limited as the bill is not yet tabled in Parliament. EP and ID noted Channel 4 relicensing and potential changes to Scottish quotas as an ongoing conversation.</p> <p>Outcomes for the Screen Educator in Residence programme will not be known until June 2024; no other immediate updates on Education.</p>
2.2	<b>ScSc Strategy &amp; Strategic Partnerships</b>

	<p>The Screen Executive team has been working alongside Brian McLaren at EKOS and the CS Knowledge &amp; Research team on the development of the updated Screen Strategy. A draft will be ready for circulation to the Screen Committee and Scottish Government by w/c 28<sup>th</sup> August. This draft and any proposed changes will be presented for discussion at the formal committee meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> September, after which it will proceed to SLT and CS Board for final sign-off by the end of September. The Strategy is scheduled for publication for w/c 23<sup>rd</sup> October.</p> <p>The 2021 Economic Value Report is scheduled for publication in August.</p> <p>DWS added that ScSc are anticipating a piece of work around developing a heatmap of key productions and their economic impact across Scotland to come later this year.</p>
2.3	<p><b>Film Education</b></p> <p>Item was presented in the Advocacy update, see 2.1.</p>
2.4	<p><b>Skills</b></p> <p>ScSc are now confirmed as the BFI Skills Cluster for Scotland with a budget of £366,000 per year for 3 years. This is being spent across three projects this year.</p> <p>MG Alba Studio in Stornoway – Screen Scotland is working with MG Alba and Western Isles Council to deliver traineeships progressing through the MG Alba Studio in Stornoway. DWS and Steven Little (Head of Production) met with the trainees, Head of BBC Scotland and Education Cab Sec at the studio. There is confirmed support for an English and Gaelic language production on this visit with Board support from MG Alba, sold to All3 Media, BBC4 and international territories.</p> <p>TRC’s Reset Programme – This is a paid eight-month traineeship within a Scottish Animation, Visual Effects (VFX) or Games company which includes full training throughout the placement. First funded through the National Transition Training Fund (NTTF), the programme offers applicants an opportunity to retrain and use adjacent skills to join the post-production, animation, VFX spheres of the Screen industry. This could include those who were working in sectors such as: retail, hospitality, travel, entertainment, events etc.</p> <p>Industry Incubator – This initiative aims to develop an ‘industry ready’ graduate pool, including school leavers, further education graduates, and higher education graduates. The nuts and bolts of next steps into industry are not currently taught in tertiary settings due to the capacities of the institutions themselves. This programme aims to bridge the gap between theoretical &amp; technical ability established in FE and HE, and a clear understanding what working in a studio or on a film set entails.</p> <p>ID highlighted that the added value of being the Scottish BFI Skills Cluster is being part of a UK-wide network, allowing for the chance to collaborate, innovate, and understand other practice nation-wide.</p>

	<p>ID also noted her and Steven Little's involvement in the BFI's UK-wide industry-led Skills Task Force, established to address the critical skilled labour shortages within the UK's production screen sectors.</p> <p>DWS noted an award recently signed off for the River City Training Academy, with Screen Scotland working directly with BBC Studios and Studioworks to fund a large pool of new trainees through the next two series of River City.</p>
2.5	<p><b>Infrastructure</b></p> <p>ID noted Wardpark Studios now has built two new sound stages.</p>
2.6	<p><b>Production</b></p> <p>Factual production is currently experiencing a slower year. The writers' strike has had an impact on scripted productions and the committee noted that we may see an increase in productions next year once the strike is resolved. It should be noted the strikes are not the only influencing factor but have had a significant impact on productions.</p>
2.7	<p><b>Talent Progression</b></p> <p>The CEO of GMAC has resigned and the process of hiring a replacement is underway.</p>
2.8	<p><b>International</b></p> <p>Any updates covered in previous items.</p>
2.9	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p><b>ACTION: MB to cancel August informal meeting</b></p> <p>UPDATE 11/07/23: Due to the anticipated publication of the Economic Value Report at the end of August, the committee will hold a short, one-off meeting on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August to review and scrutinize the report before being sent to Comms.</p> <p>The formal meeting on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September will be used to review/scrutinize the Screen Scotland strategy ahead of its anticipated publication in late October. As it is a large and impactful piece of work, the agenda will focus entirely on Strategy.</p> <p>Future meetings have been amended to suit the 6 formal meetings per annum request.</p> <p>Informal meeting: Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October</p> <p>Formal meeting: Tue 14<sup>th</sup> November</p> <p>Informal meeting: Tue 12<sup>th</sup> December</p>
3.	<p><b>Date of next meeting: Tue 12<sup>th</sup> September, 15:00 – 17:00 (in person)</b></p> <p>UPDATE 11/07/23: next formal (focussing on Economic Value Report) will take place on Tue 8<sup>th</sup> August, 14:30 – 15:30</p>