



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

Tuesday 4th February 2020

Dear Convener,

Creative Scotland Update: Refreshed Strategy and Funding Framework

I am writing to update the Committee on the next steps in introducing a refreshed Creative Scotland Strategy and Funding Framework. We will be communicating more widely in the coming weeks but have today written to our Regularly Funded Organisations to let them know the following plans.

Refreshed Strategy and Funding Framework

After extensive internal and external engagement and having had Creative Scotland Board discussion in January, we are now finalising our refreshed Strategy and revised Funding Framework.

We plan to start saying more about both from April this year, by which time we will have been able to take into account and respond to the anticipated publication of the Scottish Government National Culture Strategy, the report of the CTEEA's Inquiry into *A Sustainable Arts Funding System For Scotland* and the Scottish Government response to it.

We will also be able to take into consideration any budget implications for 2020/21, with an expected announcement from the Scottish Government on [6 February](#) and the UK Government setting its budget on [11 March](#).

We are committed to ensuring any changes are introduced in a managed way and therefore, beyond April, there will be further engagement with the sector and other partners to share the refreshed Strategy and revised Funding Framework and discuss how best to introduce change.

Prior to that engagement, we will shortly be publishing on our website a report on the feedback we received from the external conversation work conducted in 2019.

We anticipate that the broad timetable will be:

February 2020

- Publication of the External Conversation Feedback Report

April 2020 onwards

- Publication of the refreshed Strategy and new Funding Framework
- Engagement to share and discuss the new approaches and how best to implement changes

October 2020 – March 2021

- Begin phased introduction of new funding initiatives
- Prepare and publish new materials and information to support the introduction of the new approaches

April 2021 onwards

- Continue phased introduction of new Funding Framework

Managing the transition

In order to introduce a smooth transition:

- Current arrangements for RFO, Open Project Funding and Targeted Funding will continue during 2020/21 to enable us to introduce new approaches in a managed way
- The introduction of new funding initiatives will be clearly communicated well in advance of the change
- We know that there is a significant planning period required for organisations in receipt of regular funding to respond to any funding approach changes. Following discussion with Scottish Government, we agreed last year to extend, in principle, the funding agreements for organisations currently in the RFO network for one year from April 2021, subject to available budget.

We will also be preparing an update under separate cover on Screen Scotland progress ahead of our evidence session with the Committee on March 12. In the meantime, please do let me know if you require any further information at this stage.

Yours sincerely,



Ken Miller

Interim Director, Communications
Creative Scotland