

FOI case reference number: 202400406856 - REIN

**REQUEST - 28.03.2024:** *“I would be very grateful if you could supply any ministerial or first ministerial correspondence, or any other official correspondence from government to Creative Scotland on the subject of Rein, in the form of memos, emails, whatsapp or any other written or digital media in the period after March 10 (2024).*

*Also I would be obliged if you supply any internal government correspondence between government ministers, including the first minister, and officials, in which Creative Scotland is discussed in light of its decision to fund Rein. This should also include memos, emails, whatsapp or any other written or digital media in the period after March 10 (2024).”*

---

1.

**From:** Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2024 9:02 AM  
**To:** Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >  
**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Sky News: Rein project

Morning [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] – thanks.

We picked this up over the weekend. This is a matter for Creative Scotland and they have asked that we refer all queries to their press office.

Further information for the Minister follows:

**10 March 24 – article in Sunday press “STATE-FUNDED PORN’ - explicit ‘sex cave’ show handed £84,000 of public money by Scottish Government agency”**

**Issue: Media reporting that Creative Scotland has provided lottery funding of £84k through its open fund to a sexually explicit project.**

**Background:**

Creative Scotland is the public body that supports the arts, screen and creative industries across all parts of Scotland on behalf of everyone who lives, works or visits here. It distributes funding from the Scottish Government and The National Lottery.

CS advises that the project, funded with national lottery funds through its open fund, is being developed by a reputable project team, with support from credible partner organisations. Whilst it was expected to be radical and would push boundaries, what is emerging regarding the project is considerably more sexually explicit than what was intimated in the application. Accordingly, CS will be reviewing this award, and will be discussing with the artists involved and the partners. CS is issuing a statement as follows:

“We support freedom of expression and artists being able to push the boundaries of radical performance. However, the project, Rein, is considerably more explicit in its execution than was indicated in the application received to our Open Fund. As such, we are reviewing this award and will be discussing next steps with the applicant and with the other partners in the project.”

### Lines to Take:

The Scottish Government does not interfere in Creative Scotland decisions relating to artistic or cultural judgement. This is a matter for Creative Scotland and I understand the funding decision is being reviewed given the manner in which the project is developing.

Thanks

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Lisa Baird | Deputy Director, Cultural Access and Organisations | |

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development

**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2024 8:26 AM

**To:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture [CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot)

**Subject:** FW: Sky News: Rein project

Hi team

Please see the below query from Sky News regarding a Creative Scotland funded project. Grateful for advice please.

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] (Scotland News Reporter)

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >

**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2024 8:22 AM

**To:** Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development  
<[MinisterCEID@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterCEID@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** Sky News: Rein project

Ms Stewart and team,

I am looking for a comment in regards to the Rein project that was awarded almost £85,000 from Creative Scotland.

I've asked Creative Scotland if there's any update to the statement issued yesterday – and whether Creative Scotland was aware the project featured "non-simulated" sex before or after the funding was awarded.

I'm looking for a comment from the culture minister in regards to the situation.

Warmest regards,

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

-----  
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Scotland news reporter

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >

Tel: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]



---

2.

**From:** Lisa Baird <[Lisa.Baird@gov.scot](mailto:Lisa.Baird@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2024 8:58 AM

**To:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >;

**Subject:** RE: IMPORTANT: ongoing media coverage

Thanks : [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] – appreciated.

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Lisa Baird | Deputy Director, Cultural Access and Organisations | | | Tel: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] )

**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2024 8:53 AM

**To:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** FW: IMPORTANT: ongoing media coverage  
**Importance:** High

Hi [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] and Lisa

Just sharing the below that I've sent to all staff this morning. So you are aware of the latest. I'll keep you posted of what actions are decided later today.

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2024 8:30 AM  
**To:** All Users <>; CS Board <>  
**Subject:** IMPORTANT: ongoing media coverage  
**Importance:** High

Hi All,

To make you aware of extensive media interest in a project we have supported called Rein.

Comms colleagues have been handling this over the weekend and there is significant coverage in the media and on social media, including in today's press cuttings.

The project was awarded funding through our Open Fund following application and assessment. It is being developed by a reputable project team, with support from credible partner organisations.

However, what is emerging in the latest phase of the project is felt to be more explicit than what was intimated in the application (although, it was always clear that this project was radical and would push boundaries).

This is causing a great deal of negative media and public reaction.

Colleagues will be discussing next steps today. In the meantime, we issued the following statement yesterday and it's likely we will put out further statements over the coming days.

*"We support freedom of expression and artists being able to push the boundaries of radical performance.*

*However, the project, Rein, is considerably more explicit in its execution than was indicated in the application received to our Open Fund.*

*As such, we are reviewing this award and will be discussing next steps with the applicant and with the other partners in the project."*

Please do not respond to any enquiries you receive regarding this project and refer any questions you receive to either the Media Relations or Enquires teams.

Best wishes,

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b))

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b))

Director, Communications and External Relations  
Stiùiriche, Conaltraidhean

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] T

Creative Scotland, Waverley Gate, 2-4 Waterloo Place, Edinburgh, EH1 3EG  
Alba Chruthachail, Geata Waverley, 2-4 Rathad Bhatarlù, Dùn Èideann, EH1 3EG

---

3.

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] > )  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2024 12:10 PM  
**To:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >  
**Cc:** Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture  
<CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>; [redacted under  
FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >; Director of Culture and Major Events  
<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** Re: SPAD VIEW: BID - AR - Rein Project/Creative Scotland

Agree, thanks, CS should speak to this.

---

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b))]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2024 12:05:17 PM  
**To:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >;  
**Cc:** Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture  
<CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>; [redacted under  
FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot, Director of Culture and  
Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** SPAD VIEW: BID - AR - Rein Project/Creative Scotland

Hi [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b))

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] at the BBC is bidding to speak to Cab Sec Culture on the Creative Scotland funding a sex show story.

We have referred all inquiries on this to Creative Scotland as it was their decision and SG is not involved.

Therefore recommend **DECLINE** for this interview.

Grateful for your view.

Kind regards

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

WHO	OUTLET	TIME	LIVE/PR E-REC	INTERVIEWER	TOPICS	Recommendation	Other details (if required)
Mr Robertson	BBC	TBC		[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]	Creative Scotland funding of sex show	Decline	Recommend passing on to Creative Scotland

#### **BID DETAILS**

Wanted to see if Mr Robertson would be doing anything on camera regarding this today -

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c3gmvyxexlzo>

Appreciate Creative Scotland make the funding decisions, but still keen to say if he has anything to add.

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

**News | Senior Media Manager**

**Constitution, External Affairs and Culture Communications**

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

Mobile: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | Portfolio Media inquiries: 0300 244 9029

---

4. (in response to email above 11.03.2024 12:05:17 PM)

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2024 12:31 PM

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture  
<CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

<CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>; [redacted under

FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Director of Culture and Major Events

<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38

(1)(b)] Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** FOR AWARENESS - Rein Project/Creative Scotland

## FOR AWARENESS

The Daily Mail have asked for a comment on this story but I have referred them to Creative Scotland.

Regards

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] ) **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2024 12:22 PM  
**To:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >; ) Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >; ) Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >; ) Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: CAB SEC VIEW: BID - AR - Rein Project/Creative Scotland

Hi [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Mr Robertson is content to decline

Thanks,

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

---

5.

**From:** Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>;  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2024 2:39 PM  
**To:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >  
**Cc:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]  
**Subject:** FW: Culture FMQ Briefing - Impact of Cost Crisis on Cultural Venues - Updated as of 11.03.2024  
**Importance:** High

Hi [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)],

Your use of the REIN lines are good thanks.

We will keep in touch with Creative Scotland and update before Thursday.

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] – can you update on music venues trust

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] – can you update with the latest on CS MYF

Hapy to remove the sections [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] suggests.)

Thanks all,

Lisa

Lisa Baird | Deputy Director, Cultural Access and Organisations | |

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2024 1:57 PM

**To:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >

**Cc:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events <[Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot](mailto:Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot)>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >;

**Subject:** RE: Culture FMQ Briefing - Impact of Cost Crisis on Cultural Venues - Updated as of 11.03.2024

**Importance:** High

Hi [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] and colleagues,

Thanks for sending this brief up.

I am attaching an edit, which I'd be grateful for you to review. Any background info should be in the background box, so I have moved this in relation to the CS funding for REIN. I have also deleted many of the older issues in the background box and lines relating to them as they don't feel pertinent this week – these can be kept in a policy core brief that you might hold so that you can include them in an FMQ in the future should they come up in the press/public domain again.

I'd appreciate consideration of my comments in the attached and an updated brief to be with me by **9am tomorrow** please. My major change is that I think the FM needs to be able to draw on the CS statement that is being issued (when will this issue?), so have included some of this in lines for him. I'd also be grateful for info on what the timeframe is for CS reviewing this decision and likelihood of an update being required before Thursday.



Many Thanks

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >

**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2024 11:16 AM

**To:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

**Cc:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] > [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Director of Culture and Major Events <[Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot](mailto:Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot)>; Lisa Baird <[Lisa.Baird@gov.scot](mailto:Lisa.Baird@gov.scot)>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

**Subject:** Culture FMQ Briefing - Impact of Cost Crisis on Cultural Venues - Updated as of 11.03.2024

Hi,

Please see attached the FMQ Briefing on the Impact of Cost Crisis on Cultural Venues, updated as of 11 March.

Culture FMQ Briefing - 11.03.2024 details - Objective ECM ([scotland.gov.uk](http://scotland.gov.uk))

Note: Lines have been provided in the briefing for the ongoing news item (10 March) that Creative Scotland has provided lottery funding of £84k through its open fund to a sexually explicit project.

Kind regards,

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | Policy Officer – Performing Arts | Sponsorship and Funding Branch | Culture and Historic Environment Division | Scottish Government

---

6.

**From:** Lisa Baird <[Lisa.Baird@gov.scot](mailto:Lisa.Baird@gov.scot)>;

**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2024 4:55 PM

**To:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

**Cc:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >;

**Subject:** RE: IMPORTANT: ongoing media coverage - Review Process

Thanks [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] and [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)],

We have a topical PQ for tomorrow on this now so grateful for any update asap. We will suggest to Ministers that we hold the line that it is a matter for CS but we will keep you updated.

Lisa

Lisa Baird | Deputy Director, Cultural Access and Organisations | |

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2024 4:48 PM  
**To:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >  
**Cc:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]\_>;  
**Subject:** RE: IMPORTANT: ongoing media coverage - Review Process

Hi [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)],)

This is underway...I can't put a timeframe on it I'm afraid as others are conducting various aspects of the review...but I'd hope (from a Comms perspective) to be able to say more as soon as possible.

We are receiving many media enquiries, as you might imagine.

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b))

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2024 4:43 PM  
**To:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]\_>  
**Cc:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: IMPORTANT: ongoing media coverage - Review Process

Hi [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)],)

Thanks for the below email. What is the timeframe for reviewing this award in particular?

If not known, is there an estimated timeframe for these type of application reviews that you can offer please?

*"As such, we are reviewing this award and will be discussing next steps with the applicant and with the other partners in the project."*

Kind regards,

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b))

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b))] | Policy Officer – Performing Arts |  
Sponsorship and Funding Branch | Culture and Historic Environment Division | Scottish  
Government

---

7.

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2024 5:57 PM  
**To:** Lisa Baird [Lisa.Baird@gov.scot](mailto:Lisa.Baird@gov.scot), Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External  
Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>; ParlyClerk Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; , Joe Griffin <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >;  
**Subject:** Re: Topical Running Order for Tuesday 12 March

Given CS position that the desperation of Rein was 'more explicit' than the application I suspect there will be FOIs made to release it. Do we know if CS plans to proactively publish the application?

I think the answer needs to be revisited that while we have no role in the provision of determining who receives CS grants that we simply do not expect funds to be allocated in this manner. There is a distinction bluntly between a work being 'explicit' and what the casting call describes, being paid for sex work. It should not be a stretch for the CS to be able to say clearly that this is not acceptable in our view.

[REDACTED – section 30(b)(i) Free and frank provision of advice]

---

**From:** Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2024 5:18:49 PM  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>; ParlyClerk Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; , Joe Griffin <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]  
**Subject:** RE: Topical Running Order for Tuesday 12 March

Hi [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)],

For speed given Cab Sec's diary here's the suggested answer and background for approval by Cab Sec and Spads. We are awaiting further info IRO Creative Scotland's review so will get this in the right format and add any update along with additional supps SPADs suggest in the morning ([redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]) – can you please pick that up).

**Answer:**

This is a matter for Creative Scotland. The Scottish Government does not interfere in Creative Scotland decisions relating to artistic or cultural judgement.

**Supps:**

Q: Did Creative Scotland know that the project was sexually explicit when it reviewed the application and awarded open funding?

A: Creative Scotland has advised that the project is considerably more explicit in its execution than was indicated in the original application for funding. I understand the funding decision is being reviewed given the manner in which the project is developing.

Q: Tax payers money wasted on inappropriate project?

A: I understand this project was to be funded through national lottery funding distributed by Creative Scotland.

## Background

- Creative Scotland is the public body that supports the arts, screen and creative industries across all parts of Scotland on behalf of everyone who lives, works or visits here. It distributes funding from the Scottish Government and The National Lottery.
- CS advises that the project, funded with national lottery funds through its open fund, is being developed by a reputable project team, with support from credible partner organisations. Whilst it was expected to be radical and would push boundaries, what is emerging regarding the project is considerably more sexually explicit than what was intimated in the application. Accordingly, CS will be reviewing this award, and will be discussing with the artists involved and the partners. CS issued a statement as follows:

*“We support freedom of expression and artists being able to push the boundaries of radical performance. However, the project, Rein, is considerably more explicit in its execution than was indicated in the application received to our Open Fund. As such, we are reviewing this award and will be discussing next steps with the applicant and with the other partners in the project.”*

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Lisa Baird | Deputy Director, Cultural Access and Organisations | |

---

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture

**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2024 4:59 PM

**To:** Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <[CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot)>; Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development <[MinisterCEID@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterCEID@gov.scot)>; ParlyClerk Scotland <[ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot](mailto:ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot)>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <[DGSEA@gov.scot](mailto:DGSEA@gov.scot)>; Director of Culture and Major Events

<[Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot](mailto:Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot)>; , Joe Griffin <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>;  
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >); Communications Constitution, External  
Affairs and Culture  
<[CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot)>; [redacted under  
FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

**Subject:** FW: Topical Running Order for Tuesday 12 March

**Importance:** High

Hi Lisa,

As discussed, please see the attached topical question for Mr Robertson to answer in the Chamber tomorrow at 2pm. I'd be grateful if you can please pull together a draft answer to us asap this evening and background note inc possible supps tomorrow morning.

**2. Neil Bibby:** *To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to reports that Creative Scotland has awarded £85,000 to the project Rein, in light of concerns about its explicit content. ([S6T-01858](#))*

Many thanks to you and the team again for picking up at short notice. Let me know if you need anything else from our side in the meantime.

Kind regards

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

### **Deputy Private Secretary**

Office of Angus Robertson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture [CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot)

---

8.

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 12, 2024 9:08 AM

**To:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: URGENT - Topical PQ - S6T-01858 - Due 9.30 Tuesday

I'll take that on please.

Thanks

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | Team Leader Creative Scotland & Performing Arts | Cultural Access & Organisations Division | Scottish Government |

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] **On Behalf Of** ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 12, 2024 9:07 AM  
**To:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]  
**Cc:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT - Topical PQ - S6T-01858 - Due 9.30 Tuesday  
**Importance:** High

Hi there

Hope you are well.

Please can you let us have an update for the below Topical PQ awaiting allocation on the tracker.

Kind regards

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] FMQ and PQ Support Officer  
Scottish Government, Room 1N.04. St Andrews House, Regent Road,  
Edinburgh EH1 3DG.

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] > )  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2024 4:44 PM  
**To:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >;  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT - Topical PQ - S6T-01858 - Due 9.30 Tuesday

Adding [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] to the copy list.

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | Senior Sponsorship and Historic Environment Policy Manager

---

Cultural Access and Organisations Division | Scottish Government  
2G South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

w: [www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk)

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] **On Behalf Of** ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2024 4:40 PM  
**To:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >;  
**Cc:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]  
**Subject:** URGENT - Topical PQ - S6T-01858 - Due 9.30 Tuesday

Hi all,

We have received this week's Topical PQs and we think this one may sit with your area.

The PQ is due with MPO by 09:30 tomorrow morning.

The reason for such an early deadline is so the answer can be discussed at Cabinet tomorrow afternoon.

The Topical PQ is;

**2. Neil Bibby:** To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to reports that Creative Scotland has awarded £85,000 to the project *Rein*, in light of concerns about its explicit content. ([S6T-01858](#))

We know sometimes areas like to discuss who will answer, content of answer etc before coming back to us, but with such a tight deadline can you confirm it has been picked up?

Many thanks

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] FMQ and PQ Support Officer  
Scottish Government, Room 1N.04. St Andrews House, Regent Road,  
Edinburgh EH1 3DG.

---

9.

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] > )

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 12, 2024 12:23 PM

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture  
<CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development  
<MinisterCEID@gov.scot>; ParlyClerk Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>;  
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]; Director of Culture and Major Events  
<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>;, Joe Griffin <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>;

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >; Communications Constitution, External  
Affairs and Culture

<CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird  
<Lisa.Baird@gov.scot> [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >

**Subject:** RE: Topical Running Order for Tuesday 12 March

Hi,

Thanks for this. I would be concerned re saying "very soon" as we are not able to say exactly when CS will provide their review.

Thanks

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | Team Leader Creative Scotland & Performing Arts | Cultural Access & Organisations Division | Scottish Government

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] > ) **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 12, 2024 12:22 PM

**To:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <[CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development <[MinisterCEID@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterCEID@gov.scot)>; ParlyClerk Scotland <[ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot](mailto:ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot)>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <[DGSEA@gov.scot](mailto:DGSEA@gov.scot)>; Director of Culture and Major Events <[Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot](mailto:Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot)>; , Joe Griffin <[Joe.Griffin@gov.scot](mailto:Joe.Griffin@gov.scot)>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >;

Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

<[CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot)>; Lisa Baird <[Lisa.Baird@gov.scot](mailto:Lisa.Baird@gov.scot)> [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >

**Subject:** RE: Topical Running Order for Tuesday 12 March

Hi [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Apologies, further edit as below – if officials content , I can amend from our end as I see you've just sent it through?

*“Thanks to Neil Bibby for this Topical Question. I share the concerns that have been raised, including by Creative Scotland itself. I can see no way where what has been described should be in receipt of public funding.*

*“As members are aware the Scottish Government has no role in the decisions of Creative Scotland for the funding of individual projects. However, Creative Scotland are, I understand, rapidly reviewing this allocation as they have been clear that what has been reported simply does not meet what the funding was applied for.*

*“I look forward to Creative Scotland sharing its conclusions and then updating members, including Neil Bibby, very soon.”*

Thanks,

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] > )

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 12, 2024 11:04 AM

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <[CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development <[MinisterCEID@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterCEID@gov.scot)>; ParlyClerk Scotland <[ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot](mailto:ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot)>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <[DGSEA@gov.scot](mailto:DGSEA@gov.scot)>; Director of Culture and Major



Events <[Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot](mailto:Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot)>; Joe Griffin <[Joe.Griffin@gov.scot](mailto:Joe.Griffin@gov.scot)>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <[CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot)>; Lisa Baird <[Lisa.Baird@gov.scot](mailto:Lisa.Baird@gov.scot)> [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >;  
**Subject:** RE: Topical Running Order for Tuesday 12 March

Hi all,

I've spoken to CS.

They are proposing to withdraw funding to this application as it has breached two of the conditions of the grant – 1) that the activity was supposed to be simulated sexual activity and now is actual sexual activity and 2) the applicant did not approach CS in advance of publishing the call out statement. They are checking this position with their lawyers and hope to speak to the applicant later this pm or tomorrow morning to say they will withdraw funding. They will need to give the applicant 24 hours notice to appeal before putting out a statement. I've reiterated to CS and they've agreed we need CS to put out their statement in advance of FMQs on Thurs. CS are expecting that any decision to withdraw funding will lead to criticism re censorship of the arts.

The £23k that CS provided to Rein in 2022 was National Lottery open funding so again not through SG funding and was for this project. They are not proposing to seek to recoup the £23k as Rein have met the criteria that were set out for this research and development funding.

Rein have removed their social media feeds and have taken down the call for applicants.

CS are undertaking an internal review which will be shared with us once complete which will have two parts – one which will set out how CS came to make the decision on the application and secondly to look at what can be learnt for future similar applications.

CS have received a number of FOIs re the application. They are currently dealing with the initial media queries but expect to release the application. They propose to respond to FOIs well within the 20 working days.

In terms of the answer for the PQ today we can't refer to the likely outcome set out above so I would propose the response below:

**Answer:**

This is deeply concerning. Whilst the Scottish Government does not interfere in Creative Scotland decisions relating to artistic or cultural judgement, I will be asking Creative Scotland for a full account and will share the conclusions of CS' review with Neil Bibby when possible.

**Supps:**

Q: Did Creative Scotland know that the project was sexually explicit when it reviewed the application and awarded open funding?

A: Creative Scotland has advised that the project is considerably more explicit in its execution that was indicated in the original application for funding. I understand the funding decision is being reviewed and I will share with the member the outcome of the review when I receive it.

Q: Tax payers money wasted on inappropriate project?

A: Creative Scotland has advised that the project is considerably more explicit in its execution that was indicated in the original application for funding and that they are reviewing the grant to Rein.

Thanks

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | Team Leader Creative Scotland & Performing Arts | Cultural Access & Organisations Division | Scottish Government |

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >) **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 12, 2024 10:26 AM

**To:** Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot> [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >;

**Cc:** Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>; ParlyClerk Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; , Joe Griffin <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: Topical Running Order for Tuesday 12 March

Great, thanks Lisa – before 12pm would be ideal if possible

**From:** Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 12, 2024 10:23 AM

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >;

**Cc:** Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>; ParlyClerk Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; , Joe Griffin

<Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture  
<[CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot)>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >;  
**Subject:** RE: Topical Running Order for Tuesday 12 March

Thanks [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] – I have spoken with [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] and will revise the answer shortly. We just want to see what more we can get from CS before we finalise. What's the latest deadline?

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Lisa Baird | Deputy Director, Cultural Access and Organisations |

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 12, 2024 10:20 AM  
**To:** Lisa Baird <[Lisa.Baird@gov.scot](mailto:Lisa.Baird@gov.scot)>, Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <[CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot)>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >;  
**Cc:** Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development <[MinisterCEID@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterCEID@gov.scot)>; ParlyClerk Scotland <[ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot](mailto:ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot)>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <[DGSEA@gov.scot](mailto:DGSEA@gov.scot)>; Director of Culture and Major Events <[Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot](mailto:Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot)>; , Joe Griffin <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >;  
Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <[CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot)>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >;  
**Subject:** RE: Topical Running Order for Tuesday 12 March

Hi all,

Mr Robertson's only feedback on this was that, although he is content with the draft response, he would like to expand a bit further and add something along the lines of:

This is a matter for Creative Scotland. The Scottish Government does not interfere in Creative Scotland decisions relating to artistic or cultural judgement.  
*However I welcome the review etc and look forward to sharing conclusions with Neil Bibby when possible*

Thanks,

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

**From:** Lisa Baird <[Lisa.Baird@gov.scot](mailto:Lisa.Baird@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 12, 2024 9:49 AM

**To:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >; ) Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <[CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot)>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >

**Cc:** Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development <[MinisterCEID@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterCEID@gov.scot)>; ParlyClerk Scotland <[ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot](mailto:ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot)>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <[DGSEA@gov.scot](mailto:DGSEA@gov.scot)>; Director of Culture and Major Events <[Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot](mailto:Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot)>; , Joe Griffin <[Joe.Griffin@gov.scot](mailto:Joe.Griffin@gov.scot)>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <[CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot)>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: Topical Running Order for Tuesday 12 March

Thanks both

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)],

[REDACTED – section 30(b)(i) Free and frank provision of advice]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)],

[REDACTED – section 30(b)(i) Free and frank provision of advice]

Happy to chat

Lisa

Lisa Baird | Deputy Director, Cultural Access and Organisations | |

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] > )

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 12, 2024 9:22 AM

**To:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <[CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot)>; Lisa Baird <[Lisa.Baird@gov.scot](mailto:Lisa.Baird@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development <[MinisterCEID@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterCEID@gov.scot)>; ParlyClerk Scotland <[ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot](mailto:ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot)>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <[DGSEA@gov.scot](mailto:DGSEA@gov.scot)>; Director of Culture and Major Events <[Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot](mailto:Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot)>; , Joe Griffin <[Joe.Griffin@gov.scot](mailto:Joe.Griffin@gov.scot)>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <[CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot)>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >;

**Subject:** RE: Topical Running Order for Tuesday 12 March

**Importance:** High

Hi all,

To add to [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]'s email below, I think there are a few other areas of risk that colleagues will wish to confirm our understanding on with CS.

- Firstly I note that a 2019 show by the same Director ('Love and Machinery') was put on as part of a Youth Theatre Arts Scotland event in 2019, in which it appears a 16-year-old and others "made sex toys out of audience possessions" ([Artist behind explicit show who was given £100k by Scottish Government agency staged show where teen used sex toys | The Scottish Sun](#))
- Rein also appears to have received £23k funding from CS in 2022 for research and development at the Tramway – so claim being made that it has received £100k total in CS funding.

It is reasonable to expect questions for Ministers on whether CS knew about the 2019 show when awarding the £23k in 2022, and the further £84k funding, and proper due diligence done.

We will need lines on all this in the FMQ brief due back with me today, and I hope consideration of the above also helpful for topical today.

Thanks

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

---

10..

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 13, 2024 11:56 AM  
**To:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]  
**Cc:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)], Lisa Baird <[Lisa.Baird@gov.scot](mailto:Lisa.Baird@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** RE: Revised culture FMQ

Hi [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[REDACTED – section 30(b)(i) Free and frank provision of advice]

Many thanks

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Culture FMQ Briefing - 11.03.2024 updated details - Objective ECM  
(scotland.gov.uk)

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] > )  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 13, 2024 10:16 AM  
**To:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]  
**Cc:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >; Lisa Baird <[Lisa.Baird@gov.scot](mailto:Lisa.Baird@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** Revised culture FMQ

Hi

Revised FMQ attached at link below. This may be updated when CS confirm the latest.

Thanks

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Culture FMQ Briefing - 11.03.2024 updated details - Objective ECM  
(scotland.gov.uk)

Team Leader Creative Scotland & Performing Arts | Cultural Access & Organisations  
Division | Scottish Government

---

11.

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] > )  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 13, 2024 2:23 PM  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture  
<CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]  
**Subject:** RE: Creative Scotland REIN Funding Decision, an industry view

Hi,

Please could you ask for this to be put on micase and allocated to [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]?

Thanks

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | Team Leader Creative Scotland &  
Performing Arts | Cultural Access & Organisations Division | Scottish Government |

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] > ) **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary  
for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 12, 2024 10:22 AM  
**To:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <>  
**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture  
<CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <>  
**Subject:** FW: Creative Scotland REIN Funding Decision, an industry view

For info

Many thanks,  
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] )

**Sent:** 11 March 2024 15:21

**To:** [chiefexecutive@creativescotland.com](mailto:chiefexecutive@creativescotland.com)

**Cc:** Balfour J (Jeremy), MSP <[Jeremy.Balfour.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Jeremy.Balfour.msp@parliament.scot)>; Boyack S (Sarah), MSP <[Sarah.Boyack.MSP@Parliament.scot](mailto:Sarah.Boyack.MSP@Parliament.scot)>; Robertson A (Angus), MSP <[Angus.Robertson.MSP@Parliament.scot](mailto:Angus.Robertson.MSP@Parliament.scot)>; Briggs M (Miles), MSP <[Miles.Briggs.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Miles.Briggs.msp@parliament.scot)>; Choudhury F (Foyso), MSP <[Foyso.Choudhury.MSP@Parliament.scot](mailto:Foyso.Choudhury.MSP@Parliament.scot)>; Johnstone A (Alison), MSP <[Alison.Johnstone.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Alison.Johnstone.msp@parliament.scot)>; Slater L (Lorna), MSP <[Lorna.Slater.MSP@Parliament.scot](mailto:Lorna.Slater.MSP@Parliament.scot)>; Webber S (Sue), MSP <[Sue.Webber.MSP@Parliament.scot](mailto:Sue.Webber.MSP@Parliament.scot)>; Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development <[MinisterCEID@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterCEID@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** Creative Scotland REIN Funding Decision, an industry view

Dear [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] ,)

I'm not alone in my concern around the circumstances of the weekend, and many of us in the artistic sector feel that Creative Scotland is failing us, and because of a separate agenda that is not transparent. There is a huge amount of anger across all arts sectors regarding this. The weekend's appalling revelations have heightened this.

We ask that Creative Scotland look again not just at this application which is now so widely in the news, but at your decision making systems. It would seem wise that you reverse your decision on this funding and reclaim the money spend on it as soon as possible, as pressure will continue to mount on you to do so.

This is not about the artist in question in this project, but about yourselves and about governance and policy at Creative Scotland. You are witnessing outrage in the public about the sexual content of this project, which is understandable; a more lasting outrage however is manifest in the community you are failing to support; ourselves as arts workers and businesses like mine.

This email is to inform you that there is widespread frustration also in the arts industries around your lack of transparency. Therefore, I request that you issue an explanation of how this artwork has breached the terms of Creative Scotland's funding agreement.

Finally, a clear statement is needed so that such decisions will not be repeated and an independent investigation into Creative Scotland's funding policies be announced, with the support of yourself and Creative Scotland.

This email is specifically for you Iain, and arose from conversations with other publishers and artists over the weekend, although our MSPs have been copied in.

I am moved to write the email however to make sure you are clear about specific concerns, which are not about public morals nor sexual content, but about Creative

Scotland's leadership, and a lack of transparency in funding decisions, which are now exposed.

I would be happy to assemble and / or forgather industry responses to this issue, as I encounter them every working day of my life, speaking to artists and organisations across many disciplines. I would be happy to consult publicly and in a transparent manner with you or anyone else on this issue.

Meantime, having examined what I can of this application and award, and spoken to as many involved and interested parties as I can, I request that in this instance this funding be withdrawn and a much needed investigation into your funding processes be commissioned as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

---

12.

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 10:01 AM

**To:** Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

<CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <[Lisa.Baird@gov.scot](mailto:Lisa.Baird@gov.scot)> [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)];

**Cc:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

**Subject:** CS statement re Rein - to be published at 11am

Hi

Press statement by CS which will go live at 11am re Rein:

We are in touch with FMQ team and are providing some lines on this.

Thanks

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

---

13.

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 10:04 AM

**To:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

**Cc:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] > Lisa Baird <[Lisa.Baird@gov.scot](mailto:Lisa.Baird@gov.scot)>



**Subject:** Updated lines re Culture Funding - Creative Scotland announcement re Rein

Hi,

As requested please find below a change to the lines- highlighted in yellow regarding the CS statement that they will be seeking to withdraw funding from Rein.

**“The Scottish Government has no role in the decisions of Creative Scotland for the funding of individual projects**

- However, I certainly share the concerns that have been raised, including by Creative Scotland itself.
- I can see no way where what has been described should be in receipt of public funding and I welcome Creative Scotland’s decision to withdraw the funding for this project.
- Creative Scotland are, I understand, rapidly reviewing this allocation as they have been clear that what has been reported simply does not meet what the funding was applied for – it is considerably more explicit in its execution that was indicated in the original application.
- I look forward to Creative Scotland sharing its conclusions with Scottish Government, and I will update members when we receive their review.

Thanks

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

---

14.

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 4:45 PM

**To:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

**Cc:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Lisa Baird <[Lisa.Baird@gov.scot](mailto:Lisa.Baird@gov.scot)>  
Director of Culture and Major Events <[Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot](mailto:Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot)>;  
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

<[CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot)>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: SPAD VIEW - Creative Scotland - Scottish Daily Mail

Content

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] > )

**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 4:35 PM

**To:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

**Cc:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Lisa Baird <[Lisa.Baird@gov.scot](mailto:Lisa.Baird@gov.scot)>

Director of Culture and Major Events <[Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot](mailto:Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot)>;  
DG Strategy and External Affairs <[DGSEA@gov.scot](mailto:DGSEA@gov.scot)>; Communications  
Constitution, External Affairs and Culture  
<[CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot)>; [redacted under  
FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] > )  
**Subject:** SPAD VIEW - Creative Scotland - Scottish Daily Mail

Revised as discussed on Teams.

**SpAds** – the Scottish Daily Mail has approached us regarding Creative Scotland’s decision to withdraw and recover funding from the Rein project, and requested a response to comment from the Scottish Conservatives.

Grateful for your views on proposed response.

Thanks,  
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b))]

### LINE TO TAKE

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“Creative Scotland is an arms-length funding body and Ministers, rightly, have no role in funding decisions around individual projects.

“Ministers share the concerns that have been raised and welcome Creative Scotland’s decision to withdraw and recover any funding paid for this project, **which was National Lottery funding**, given it went beyond the terms of its initial funding application. Creative Scotland are now conducting an internal review of their award process and the Cabinet Secretary will update MSPs once the findings of this review have been shared with the Scottish Government.”

### QUERY

Scottish Conservative deputy spokesperson for the constitution, external affairs and culture Alexander Stewart MSP said: “This belated change of heart from Creative Scotland is welcome, even if it did take widespread criticism to force them into this.

“However, this decision does not excuse the fact that taxpayers’ cash was squandered on this deeply inappropriate film in the first place.

“SNP ministers now owe it to concerned members of the public to be fully transparent about why a project featuring such content was ever given such a significant amount of public money.

“They cannot pass the buck to Creative Scotland and they must ensure that the cultural body urgently reviews their processes to ensure this sort of situation never happens again.”

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] > )  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 4:10 PM  
**To:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] > Lisa Baird <[Lisa.Baird@gov.scot](mailto:Lisa.Baird@gov.scot)>  
Director of Culture and Major Events <[Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot](mailto:Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot)>;  
DG Strategy and External Affairs <[DGSEA@gov.scot](mailto:DGSEA@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture  
<[CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot)>; [redacted under  
FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] > )  
**Subject:** RE: MEDIA - Creative Scotland - Scottish Daily Mail

Happy with this.

Thanks

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | Team Leader Creative Scotland &  
Performing Arts | Cultural Access & Organisations Division | Scottish Government

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] > )  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 4:09 PM  
**To:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Director of Culture and Major Events  
<[Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot](mailto:Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot)>; DG Strategy and External Affairs  
<[DGSEA@gov.scot](mailto:DGSEA@gov.scot)> Lisa Baird <[Lisa.Baird@gov.scot](mailto:Lisa.Baird@gov.scot)>;  
**Cc:** Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture  
<[CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot)>; [redacted under  
FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] > )  
**Subject:** RE: MEDIA - Creative Scotland - Scottish Daily Mail

Thanks [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)].)

Suggest the following as our response – grateful for any comments by 1630.

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

### LINE TO TAKE

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“Creative Scotland is an arms-length funding body and Ministers, rightly, have no role in funding decisions around individual projects.

“Ministers share the concerns that have been raised and welcome Creative Scotland’s decision to withdraw and recover any funding paid for this project, given it went beyond the terms of its initial funding application. Creative Scotland are now conducting an internal review of their award process and the Cabinet Secretary will update MSPs once the findings of this review have been shared with the Scottish Government.”

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 3:18 PM  
**To:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)], Lisa Baird <[Lisa.Baird@gov.scot](mailto:Lisa.Baird@gov.scot)>;  
Director of Culture and Major Events <[Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot](mailto:Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot)>;  
DG Strategy and External Affairs <[DGSEA@gov.scot](mailto:DGSEA@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture  
<[CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot)>; [redacted under  
FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] > )  
**Subject:** RE: MEDIA - Creative Scotland - Scottish Daily Mail

Hi [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)], )

Here are the lines from FMQ brief:

**“The Scottish Government has no role in the decisions of Creative Scotland for the funding of individual projects”**

- However, I certainly share the concerns that have been raised, including by Creative Scotland itself.
- I can see no way where what has been described should be in receipt of public funding and I welcome Creative Scotland’s decision to withdraw the funding for this project.
- Creative Scotland are, I understand, rapidly reviewing this allocation as they have been clear that what has been reported simply does not meet what the funding was applied for – it is considerably more explicit in its execution that was indicated in the original application.
- I look forward to Creative Scotland sharing its conclusions with Scottish Government, and I will update members when we receive their review.

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | Team Leader Creative Scotland & Performing Arts | Cultural Access & Organisations Division | Scottish Government |

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]> )  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 3:13 PM  
**To:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Lisa Baird <[Lisa.Baird@gov.scot](mailto:Lisa.Baird@gov.scot)>;  
Director of Culture and Major Events <[Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot](mailto:Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot)>;  
DG Strategy and External Affairs <[DGSEA@gov.scot](mailto:DGSEA@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture  
<[CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot)>; [redacted under  
FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] > )  
**Subject:** MEDIA - Creative Scotland - Scottish Daily Mail

Hi [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] – to see below, understand you were preparing lines for FMQs following CS' latest statement?

Thanks,

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

**From** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] > )

**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 3:06 PM

**To:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] <>

**Subject:** SDM- Creative Scotland

Hi [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)], )

Here is the comment. Let me know if you would like to respond and I can hold you a space until 8pm tonight.

Scottish Conservative deputy spokesperson for the constitution, external affairs and culture Alexander Stewart MSP said: "This belated change of heart from Creative Scotland is welcome, even if it did take widespread criticism to force them into this.

"However, this decision does not excuse the fact that taxpayers' cash was squandered on this deeply inappropriate film in the first place.

"SNP ministers now owe it to concerned members of the public to be fully transparent about why a project featuring such content was ever given such a significant amount of public money.

"They cannot pass the buck to Creative Scotland and they must ensure that the cultural body urgently reviews their processes to ensure this sort of situation never happens again."

Thanks,

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

---

15.

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] > )

**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 5:14 PM

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>;

Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)];

Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >;

**Subject:** RE: TO CLEAR: Creative Scotland - Scottish Daily Mail

Thanks [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)],) issuing now with that change.

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 5:13 PM  
**To:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)], Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <[CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development <[MinisterCEID@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterCEID@gov.scot)>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Lisa Baird <[Lisa.Baird@gov.scot](mailto:Lisa.Baird@gov.scot)>; Director of Culture and Major Events <[Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot](mailto:Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot)>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <[DGSEA@gov.scot](mailto:DGSEA@gov.scot)>; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <[CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot)>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]  
**Subject:** RE: TO CLEAR: Creative Scotland - Scottish Daily Mail

Hi [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Many thanks, Mr Robertson has requested that we please swap the paragraphs so it reads as follows:

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“Ministers share the concerns that have been raised and welcome Creative Scotland’s decision to withdraw and recover any funding paid for this project, which was National Lottery funding, given it went beyond the terms of its initial funding application. Creative Scotland are now conducting an internal review of their award process and the Cabinet Secretary will update MSPs once the findings of this review have been shared with the Scottish Government.

“Creative Scotland is an arms-length funding body and Ministers, rightly, have no role in funding decisions around individual projects.”

Otherwise, he is content.

Thanks

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] > )  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 4:47 PM  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <[CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development <[MinisterCEID@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterCEID@gov.scot)>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)], Lisa Baird <[Lisa.Baird@gov.scot](mailto:Lisa.Baird@gov.scot)>; Director of Culture and Major Events <[Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot](mailto:Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot)>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <[DGSEA@gov.scot](mailto:DGSEA@gov.scot)>; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <[CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot)>; [redacted under

**FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]**

**Subject:** TO CLEAR: Creative Scotland - Scottish Daily Mail

Cab Sec / PO,

The Scottish Daily Mail has approached us regarding Creative Scotland's decision to withdraw and recover funding from the Rein project, and requested a response to comment from the Scottish Conservatives.

Grateful if proposed response below, agreed with SpAds and officials, could be put to Mr Robertson for consideration by 20:00 tonight.

Thanks,

**[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]**

### **LINE TO TAKE**

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“Creative Scotland is an arms-length funding body and Ministers, rightly, have no role in funding decisions around individual projects.

“Ministers share the concerns that have been raised and welcome Creative Scotland's decision to withdraw and recover any funding paid for this project, which was National Lottery funding, given it went beyond the terms of its initial funding application. Creative Scotland are now conducting an internal review of their award process and the Cabinet Secretary will update MSPs once the findings of this review have been shared with the Scottish Government.”

### **QUERY**

Scottish Conservative deputy spokesperson for the constitution, external affairs and culture Alexander Stewart MSP said: “This belated change of heart from Creative Scotland is welcome, even if it did take widespread criticism to force them into this.

“However, this decision does not excuse the fact that taxpayers' cash was squandered on this deeply inappropriate film in the first place.

“SNP ministers now owe it to concerned members of the public to be fully transparent about why a project featuring such content was ever given such a significant amount of public money.

“They cannot pass the buck to Creative Scotland and they must ensure that the cultural body urgently reviews their processes to ensure this sort of situation never happens again.”

--

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

News | Senior Media Manager

Constitution, External Affairs and Culture Communications

---

16.

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture

**Sent:** Sunday, March 17, 2024 12:33 PM

**To:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>

**Cc:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>;

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

<CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>; [redacted under

FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)], Joe Griffin <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>; [redacted under

FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: New allegations re Rein

Copying in [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] as Duty SpAd this weekend in case of any further SpAd advice.

### Private Secretary

Office of Angus Robertson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture [CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot)

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

**Sent:** Sunday, March 17, 2024 12:16 PM

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>

**Cc:** DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; Director of Culture and Major Events <Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

<CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>; , Joe Griffin

<Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Minister for

Culture, Europe and International Development <MinisterCEID@gov.scot>

**Subject:** New allegations re Rein

Good afternoon,

There have been a few media articles over the weekend re the Rein story which do not make any new allegations– see links below:

[How on earth did the luvvies at Creative Scotland end up spending £110,000 of public cash to bankroll a hardcore porn film? | Daily Mail Online](#)

[Jeremy Clarkson mocks Scottish Government for funding 'explicit film' in blunder | Celebrity News | Showbiz & TV | Express.co.uk](#)



[Sex art project has £84,000 funding pulled because it's too explicit | UK News | Metro News](#)

There is also a Sunday Post article – attached as it was not available online which makes two new allegations:

- That prior to the CS award Leonie Rae Gasson who is behind Rein had made a short recording in which she spoke in explicit detail about the event and her future film plans.
- [REDACTED – section 30(b)(i) Free and frank provision of advice]

The article also compares CS' decision not to fund the Edinburgh Deaf Festival with their decision to fund Rein. We have been liaising with the previous Minister for Culture re Edinburgh Deaf Festival and have advice that is about to go to Ms Stewart in next few days on this.

I have not been able to speak to either the Chief Exec of CS or their director of Comms but the lines that we have in our FMQ are still accurate -

**The Scottish Government has no role in the decisions of Creative Scotland for the funding of individual projects**

- However, I certainly share the concerns that have been raised, including by Creative Scotland itself.
- I can see no way where what has been described should be in receipt of public funding and I welcome Creative Scotland's decision to withdraw the funding for this project.
- Creative Scotland are, I understand, rapidly reviewing this allocation as they have been clear that what has been reported simply does not meet what the funding was applied for – it is considerably more explicit in its execution that was indicated in the original application.
- I look forward to Creative Scotland sharing its conclusions with Scottish Government, and I will update members when we receive their review.

I will update further if I hear back from CS.

Thanks

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

---

17.

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

**Sent:** Sunday, March 17, 2024 1:32 PM

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot>; , Joe Griffin <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>;

**Cc:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]\_Director of Culture and Major Events

<Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Lisa Baird <[Lisa.Baird@gov.scot](mailto:Lisa.Baird@gov.scot)>; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture  
<[CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot)>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development  
<[MinisterCEID@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterCEID@gov.scot)>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]  
**Subject:** Re: New allegations re Rein

Hi,

I've heard back from cs:

On the first allegation this refers to an interview with the artist conducted at The Place in London in October 2023. Cs only became aware of this interview last week. It's no longer available as far as they can see and they don't believe she was talking specifically about the Rein project.

On the second allegation the cs head of edi was not involved in the decision making by Cs about the rein project

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

---

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] on behalf of Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <[CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 17, 2024 1:04:28 pm  
**To:** Joe Griffin <[Joe.Griffin@gov.scot](mailto:Joe.Griffin@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <[CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot)>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]  
**Cc:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Director of Culture and Major Events <[Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot](mailto:Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot)>; Lisa Baird <[Lisa.Baird@gov.scot](mailto:Lisa.Baird@gov.scot)>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <[CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot)>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development <[MinisterCEID@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterCEID@gov.scot)>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]  
**Subject:** RE: New allegations re Rein

Thanks [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] – yes I'd already done that before copying in [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] 😊

### Private Secretary

Office of Angus Robertson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture [CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot)

**From:** Joe Griffin <[Joe.Griffin@gov.scot](mailto:Joe.Griffin@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 17, 2024 12:51 PM  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <[CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot)>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

**Cc:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >; Director of Culture and Major Events <[Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot](mailto:Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot)>; Lisa Baird <[Lisa.Baird@gov.scot](mailto:Lisa.Baird@gov.scot)>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]. Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <[CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot)>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]. Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development <[MinisterCEID@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterCEID@gov.scot)>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]  
**Subject:** Re: New allegations re Rein

Thanks [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]. Also assume you are specifically drawing to Mr Robertson's attention as I know he likes to be up to speed over the weekend as these things develop. Thanks. [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)].

---

18.

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 12:18 PM  
**To:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] )  
**Cc:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]  
**Subject:** [redacted under section 30(b)(i) Free and frank provision of advice]

Thanks [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)],

V helpful to know. You may have seen the Sunday Post has drawn links between CS funding rein and not funding Edinburgh Deaf Festival.

Thanks

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | Team Leader Creative Scotland & Performing Arts | Cultural Access & Organisations Division | Scottish Government | [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

---

19.

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 25, 2024 8:14 AM  
**To:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]; Director of Culture and Major Events <[Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot](mailto:Directorofcultureandmajorevents@gov.scot)>; Lisa Baird <[Lisa.Baird@gov.scot](mailto:Lisa.Baird@gov.scot)>; [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]  
**Cc:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]  
**Subject:** Update on news articles re Rein

Morning,

To see latest article from Sunday Post yesterday re Rein. Brian Ferguson of the Scotsman also raised in an article last week that CS have announced a further 4 week delay in decisions for Open Fund for Individuals applications as a result of further due diligence after the Rein decision. CS' statement on the decision to extend the timeframe for decision at link below:

[Open Fund for Individuals | Creative Scotland](#)

Normally applications between £500 and £20,000 should take 8 weeks and applications between £20,001 and £100,000 should take 12 weeks.

I've updated our FMQ brief to include this.

Thanks

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | Team Leader Creative Scotland & Performing Arts | Cultural Access & Organisations Division | Scottish Government |

---

20.

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 26, 2024 7:27 AM

**To:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

**Subject:** RE: Creative Scotland REIN Funding Decision, an industry view

That looks good to me

Thanks

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] | Team Leader Creative Scotland & Performing Arts | Cultural Access & Organisations Division | Scottish Government |  
[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

**Sent:** Monday, March 25, 2024 10:44 AM

**To:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

**Cc:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

**Subject:** FW: Creative Scotland REIN Funding Decision, an industry view

Morning [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)].)

I am quickly checking in on the Micase OR below relating to the Rein project. This particular correspondence is addressed to [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)], with MSPs copied in. How would you normally deal with this?

I've drafted below based on the lines provided, does this sound ok?

Thank you for sharing your email of 11 March 2024 addressed to [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] outlining your concerns regarding the allocation of Creative Scotland funding to the Rein project.

As a member of the Culture and Major Events Directorate, I would like to assure you on behalf of the Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development that we share the concerns that have been raised regarding this project, including by Creative Scotland itself.

The Scottish Government has no role in the decisions of Creative Scotland for the funding of individual projects, however we can see no way where what has been described should be in receipt of public funding and welcome their decision to withdraw the funding for this project. Creative Scotland are, I understand, rapidly reviewing this allocation as they have been clear that what has been reported simply does not meet what the funding was applied for – it is considerably more explicit in its execution than was indicated in the original application.

We hope you receive a response shortly and look forward to Creative Scotland sharing the conclusions of its review with the Scottish Government.

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

**Policy Officer**

Culture Strategy Team | Access to Culture Unit  
Cultural Access and Organisations Division  
Scottish Government

E: [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture

**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 9:30 AM

**To:** Central Correspondence Unit <[CentralCorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot](mailto:CentralCorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture <[CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecforCEAC@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** FW: Creative Scotland REIN Funding Decision, an industry view

For Official response, grateful if this could be added to MiCase please and allocated to [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Kind Regards

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

Assistant Private Secretary to Angus Robertson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for  
Constitution, External Affairs and Culture  
Ministerial Private Office  
St Andrews House  
Edinburgh

---

**From:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] **On Behalf Of** First Minister FMQs  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 26, 2024 11:50 AM  
**To:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]  
**Cc:** [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] [redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)] >  
**Subject:** Culture FMQ - Update Due 4:30pm Today  
**Importance:** High

Hello

Thank you for this week's brief for FMQs. Could you please consider the following articles and update the attached brief to reflect this if not already included by 4:30pm today.

Please note – the text below is simply an extract from the news article taken from our media monitoring system. This text should not be directly copied into your brief's background box. Please use the information below to locate the article(s), and read through them to identify whether they contain any criticism of Scottish Government not covered in the brief. If yes, please add a summary of the key points (criticism, statistics etc) for FM to your background box, and lines to rebut this within the brief.

**26 Mar**

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 4 **Holyrood asks why public funds went to 'hardcore porn'** ARTS chiefs have been told to explain how thousands of pounds in public money came to be awarded to a "hardcore porn" project. Holyrood's culture committee has written to Creative Scotland, the Scottish Government quango, calling on it to explain the process which led to £84,555 being awarded to Rein, a "moving image installation" that was to feature "non-simulated"

**-The brief does already cover this but grateful if we could include a line regarding the letter from the Holyrood culture committee.**

**24 Mar**

The Sunday Post (English) 9 **Creative Scotland needs 'a root and branch reform of the whole system'** art installation featuring 'nonsimulated' sex got £110,000 public money yet the reboot of iconic film Whisky Galore! got nothing. They are calling for a "root and branch" review of Creative Scotland and off-shoot Screen Scotland, and greater scrutiny over exactly who gets a share of their £90 million pot of public money. Following our major expose of Creative Scotland, applicants

Thanks

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

[redacted under FOISA Section.38 (1)(b)]

First Minister's Questions Officer, Scottish Government  
4th Floor, St Andrew's House

---