

FOI 202400430256 – Annex A

Document 1

**From:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** Thursday, August 15, 2024 8:47 AM

**To:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** FW: In Confidence: Fund closure announcement

**Importance:** High

To see.

[redacted - s.30(b)]

CS are also likely to announce on Tues next week that the remaining YMI fund won't open this year.

Thanks

[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

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

## Document 2

**From:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 15, 2024 8:44 AM  
**To:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@creativescotland.com>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@creativescotland.com>  
**Cc:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@creativescotland.com>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@creativescotland.com>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: In Confidence: Fund closure announcement

Hi both,

Thanks for this. I spoke with [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] and [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] yesterday pm. Unfortunately the second £6.6m will not be released in advance of next Monday. I will share with our comms people for their awareness.

Please could you amend the background note as we have reimbursed CS for the £6.6m that was not provided in 2024/2025. The CS board agreed to use this funding to support the RFOs this financial year. It is the additional £6.6m that was announced that has not been released. Also in reference to the additional £6.6m should the text read better as "planned to apply" rather than "applied" as this funding hasn't been confirmed through the AO process.

Thanks

[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

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

**From:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@creativescotland.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 14, 2024 10:12 AM  
**To:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@creativescotland.com>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@creativescotland.com>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@creativescotland.com>  
**Subject:** In Confidence: Fund closure announcement  
**Importance:** High

Hi All,

Further to our discussion last week, see attached draft announcement that we will need to issue on Monday, 19 August should there be no further changes to budgets.

I believe [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] and [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] are meeting [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] later to discuss.

Copying [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] as I am off Thursday and Friday this week and out of contact, so please copy [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] in on this matter.

[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

[redacted - s.38(1)(b)], Communications and External Relations  
[redacted - s.38(1)(b)], Conaltraidhean

**T** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

**D** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

**M** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

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

[www.creativescotland.com](http://www.creativescotland.com)

## Document 3

### Open Fund for Individuals: closure of fund

For publication across Creative Scotland/Screen Scotland channels on Monday 19 August

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Creative Scotland has taken the difficult decision to close the Open Fund for Individuals to new applications due to Scottish Government being unable to confirm release of £6.6m in Grant-in-Aid budget in the current financial year, 2024-25.

#### **The Fund will close to new applications from 2pm on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024.**

Without confirmation of release of the £6.6m Grant-in-Aid budget from Scottish Government, or a proportion of this budget, Creative Scotland does not have enough funds available to support all the funding routes that we currently provide, as set out in our Annual Plan for 2024-25.

If this budget is released by Scottish Government at some point in the future, we will consider re-opening the Open Fund for Individuals, as budgets and timings allow.

The Open Fund for Organisations remains open.

Iain Munro, CEO of Creative Scotland said:

*“The level of uncertainty regarding the provision of Grant-in-Aid budgets from the Scottish Government is creating critical problems for the ongoing support we can provide to Scotland’s culture sector. This decision to close the Open Fund for Individuals is not one we would have wanted to take but is unavoidable without the funding from the Scottish Government being available. Like everyone working in Scotland’s culture and creative sector, we want to see longer term budget certainty from the Scottish Government, including the additional £100m announced by the former First Minister in September 2023, details of which have yet to emerge.”*

#### **Background**

£6.6m was removed from Creative Scotland’s Grant-in-Aid budget by the Scottish Government in 2023-24.

This budget was replaced by Creative Scotland in 2023-24 using National Lottery reserves that we held, to minimise the impact on the culture and creative sector at that time.

The Scottish Government announced the reimbursement of the £6.6m for the subsequent financial year 2024-25, taking Creative Scotland’s Grant-in-Aid budget back to previous levels. Creative Scotland applied £3m of that budget to support the Open Fund for Individuals in 2024-25, alongside £3m of National Lottery income.

At time of writing, the Scottish Government cannot confirm the release of this £6.6m commitment for the 2024-25 financial year, meaning that we need to reduce the funding available to the culture and creative sector as we are not certain we will be able to honour that funding.

**ENDS**

## Document 4

**From:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 16, 2024 1:35 PM  
**To:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: In Confidence: Fund closure announcement

Thanks [redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

Let's agree some lines for starters this afternoon.

I will suggest something by 3pm.

**From:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 19, 2024 11:10 AM  
**To:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsAndCulture@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** Creative Scotland - Finalised Statement - to close Open Fund - 14:00 today

Hi [redacted - s.38(1)(b)],

To see, CS have forwarded us the finalised version of their announcement to close the Open Fund for Individuals (attached). CS will issue this at 14:00 today across their channels.

Thanks,

[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

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



**From:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 16, 2024 3:18 PM  
**To:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: POLICY VIEW - Creative Scotland announcements next week

Hi

Thanks that looks fine to me. I don't think there is anything further we can add.

Thanks

[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

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

**From:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** Friday, August 16, 2024 3:15 PM

**To:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

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

<CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>

**Subject:** POLICY VIEW - Creative Scotland announcements next week

Hi [redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

These are our existing lines on CS funding and funding in general – not sure if there is anything to add unless there are specific questions.

[redacted - s.30(b)]

Grateful for your thoughts.

[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“The Scottish Government already provides significant funding to Creative Scotland each year and will continue to do so.

“We have increased arts culture funding this year, as the first step to achieving our commitment to invest at least £100 million more annually in culture and the arts by 2028/29.

“The Scottish Budget continues to face significant challenges. We are considering the implications of the actions announced by the Chancellor on 29 July for our public finances, and the next steps required by the Scottish Government.”

**From:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** Friday, August 16, 2024 1:34 PM

**To:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: In Confidence: Fund closure announcement

Hi,

CS have confirmed they will def go live with the closure of the Open Fund for Individuals on Monday. They've removed the information from the background note as requested and will simply refer people to the information that is in their response to the CEEAC committee call for evidence. They will share a final version of the press release on Mon am.

Thanks

[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

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

## Document 5

**From:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@creativescotland.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 19, 2024 10:59 AM  
**To:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@creativescotland.com>  
**Subject:** Open Fund for Individuals: announcement today at 2pm  
**Importance:** High

Hi All,

Sharing the final version of the announcement we will be issuing this afternoon at 2pm.

If you can share with the appropriate people at your end for awareness, that would be appreciated.

Best wishes,

[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

[redacted - s.38(1)(b)], Communications and External Relations  
[redacted - s.38(1)(b)], Conaltraidhean

**T** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)]  
**D** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)]  
**M** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

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

[www.creativescotland.com](http://www.creativescotland.com)



## Document 6

### Open Fund for Individuals: closure of fund

For publication across Creative Scotland channels at 2pm on Monday 19 August

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Creative Scotland has taken the difficult decision to close the [Open Fund for Individuals](#) to new applications due to the Scottish Government being unable to confirm release of £6.6m in Grant-in-Aid budget in the current financial year, 2024-25.

#### **The Fund will close to new applications from 2pm on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024.**

Creative Scotland planned to apply £3m of the £6.6m budget to support the Open Fund for Individuals in 2024-25, alongside £3m of National Lottery income.

Without confirmation of release of this budget, Creative Scotland does not have enough funds available to support all the funding routes that we currently provide, as set out in our [Annual Plan for 2024-25](#).

All currently submitted Open Fund for Individuals applications will be processed as per the [published Guidance](#). The [National Lottery Open Fund for Organisations](#) remains open.

Iain Munro, CEO of Creative Scotland said:

*"The level of uncertainty regarding the provision of Grant-in-Aid budgets from the Scottish Government is creating critical problems for the ongoing support we can provide to Scotland's culture sector.*

*"This decision to close the Open Fund for Individuals is not one we would have wanted to take but is unavoidable without the funding from the Scottish Government being available.*

*"Like everyone working in Scotland's culture and creative sector, we understand the extreme pressures on public finances but want to see longer term budget certainty from the Scottish Government, including the additional £100m announced in September 2023, details of which have yet to emerge."*

ends

## Document 7

**From:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 19, 2024 1:33 PM  
**To:** Joe Griffin <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsAndCulture@gov.scot>; Shona Riach <Shona.Riach@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Creative Scotland - Finalised Statement - to close Open Fund - 14:00 today

Hi Joe,

I put up an email late last week to Mr Robertson's and the FM's office on this. I'll forward to their offices for awareness now.

Thanks

[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

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

**From:** Joe Griffin <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 19, 2024 1:29 PM  
**To:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>; Shona Riach <Shona.Riach@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Creative Scotland - Finalised Statement - to close Open Fund - 14:00 today

Thanks. Can we make sure Cabinet Secretary and SpAds are sighted. Mr R is doing some media bids this afternoon on external affairs, but he may get asked about this. J

**From:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 19, 2024 12:23 PM  
**To:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>; Shona Riach <Shona.Riach@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Creative Scotland - Finalised Statement - to close Open Fund - 14:00 today

Hi,

Re-sending to copy in Shona and Joe for their awareness. CS statement attached.

Thanks,

[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

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



**From:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** Monday, August 19, 2024 11:10 AM

**To:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Cc:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>

**Subject:** Creative Scotland - Finalised Statement - to close Open Fund - 14:00 today

Hi [redacted - s.38(1)(b)],

To see, CS have forwarded us the finalised version of their announcement to close the Open Fund for Individuals (attached). CS will issue this at 14:00 today across their channels.

Thanks,

[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

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



## Document 8

**From:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** Monday, August 19, 2024 1:35 PM

**To:** First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Shona Riach <Shona.Riach@gov.scot>; Joe Griffin <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsAndCulture@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: FM Urgent Commission by 1230 today - Creative Scotland funding

Good Afternoon,

Further to the email below Please find attached final version of the messaging by Creative Scotland that will be issued at 2pm today regarding the CS Open Fund.

Kind Regards

[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

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

**From:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** Thursday, August 15, 2024 12:14 PM

**To:** First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Shona Riach <Shona.Riach@gov.scot>; Joe Griffin <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: FM Urgent Commission by 1230 today - Creative Scotland funding

Good afternoon,

Further to my email below the FM and Mr Robertson will wish to be aware that Creative Scotland have informed us that they will announce the closure of their Open Fund for Individuals on Monday 19 August and on Tuesday 20 August will announce that there is an ongoing delay to launching the YMI Access and Strengthening Music Making Fund.

The Open Fund for individuals is one of Creative Scotland's key funding routes, supporting the wide range of activity initiated by artists, writers, producers, and other creative practitioners in Scotland. Access to Music Making fund is to create access to high-quality music-making

opportunities for children and young people aged 0-25 years (or, aged over 25 if they are disabled and/or care experienced) who might not otherwise access this, and is targeted to specific groups of young people. Applications to the Access to Music Making fund can come from organisations and individuals based in Scotland or who are delivering programmes within Scotland for the benefit of children and young people of Scotland. The smaller Strengthening Youth Music fund helps develop the youth music sector to make sure it best meets the needs of young people from the target groups.

The messaging on both these announcements by Creative Scotland will refer to the fact that the money has not been confirmed by Scottish Government. We will work with comms colleagues to develop lines.

Kind Regards

[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

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

**From:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 14, 2024 11:36 AM

**To:** First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; Shona Riach <Shona.Riach@gov.scot>; Joe Griffin <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs

<DGSEA@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister

<Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh

<Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

<[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted -

s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted -

s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

<CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: FM Urgent Commission by 1230 today - Creative Scotland funding

Hi,

Please find attached background info on the cuts to Creative Scotland funding.

Kind Regards

[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

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

**From:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** First Minister

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 14, 2024 10:48 AM

**To:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird

<Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>

**Cc:** First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; Shona Riach <Shona.Riach@gov.scot>; Joe Griffin <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; DG Strategy and External Affairs <DGSEA@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister

<Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh

<[Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot](mailto:Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot)>; Jack Middleton <[Jack.Middleton@gov.scot](mailto:Jack.Middleton@gov.scot)>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)]  
<[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;  
[redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Constitution, External Affairs  
and Culture <[CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** FM Urgent Commission by 1230 today - Creative Scotland funding

**Importance:** High

All,

The First Minister has requested an urgent briefing note on this story by 12:30 today – grateful for confirmation this has been picked up please?

[Creative Scotland warns of 'managed decline' outlook for the arts after being targeted for new cuts \(scotsman.com\)](https://www.scotsman.com)



**Brian Ferguson**  
[\[redacted\]@brianjaffa\[redacted\]](mailto:brianjaffa@scotsman.com)



---

 **Exclusive:** [\[redacted\]@CreativeScots\[redacted\]](https://www.scotsman.com) warns Holyrood of the prospect of “significant job losses” & years of “managed decline” after being targeted for new cuts - as industry leaders raise fears of “devastating” funding decisions looming. 

Full story: [scotsman.com/arts-and-cultu...](https://www.scotsman.com/arts-and-culture)  
[\[redacted\]@TheScotsman\[redacted\]](https://www.scotsman.com) [pic.x.com/3iwesg4tdu](https://pic.x.com/3iwesg4tdu)

14/08/2024, 07:35

Many thanks,  
[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]  
[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

**Office of the First Minister**

5<sup>th</sup> Floor | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | [redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

## Document 9

**From:** David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 19, 2024 3:11 PM  
**To:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsAndCulture@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: SPAD VIEW- Media enquiry: Scotsman - Creative Scotland Open Fund

Ok

**From:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 19, 2024 3:01 PM  
**To:** David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: SPAD VIEW- Media enquiry: Scotsman - Creative Scotland Open Fund

SpAds – given Cab Sec’s first interview is at 15:35 – I’m going to put this to him in 10 minutes so that he has the lines in case BBC ask.

[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]  
**News | Communications** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)]  
**Constitution, External Affairs and Culture Communications**  
The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh  
Mobile: [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] | Portfolio media enquiries: 0300 244 9029  
[www.gov.scot/news](http://www.gov.scot/news)



**From:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 19, 2024 2:49 PM  
**To:** David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: SPAD VIEW- Media enquiry: Scotsman - Creative Scotland Open Fund

For awareness – someone from The Bookseller has asked for the line too.

BBC have also asked for a line. Cab Sec is speaking to them at 15:45 today – so they may ask about it there too.

[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

News | Communications [redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

Constitution, External Affairs and Culture Communications

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

Mobile: [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] | Portfolio media enquiries: 0300 244 9029

[www.gov.scot/news](http://www.gov.scot/news)



**From:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** Monday, August 19, 2024 2:25 PM

**To:** David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>

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

<CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** SPAD VIEW- Media enquiry: Scotsman - Creative Scotland Open Fund

SpAds,

Following Creative Scotland's announcement that they are closing the Open Fund for individuals as SG has not been able to confirm details of funding. Full CS comms below.

We've pulled the below lines together with officials.

Are you content?

Thanks,

[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

### **A Scottish Government spokesperson said:**

"The Scottish Government already provides significant funding to Creative Scotland each year and will continue to do so.

"We have increased arts culture funding this year, as the first step to achieving our commitment to invest at least £100 million more annually in culture and the arts by 2028/29.

"The Scottish Budget continues to face significant challenges. We are considering the implications of the actions announced by the Chancellor on 29 July for our public finances, and the next steps required by the Scottish Government."

### **Creative Scotland statement**

#### **Open Fund for Individuals: closure of fund**



Creative Scotland has taken the difficult decision to close the [Open Fund for Individuals](#) to new applications due to the Scottish Government being unable to confirm release of £6.6m in Grant-in-Aid budget in the current financial year, 2024-25.

**The Fund will close to new applications from 2pm on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024.**

Creative Scotland planned to apply £3m of the £6.6m budget to support the Open Fund for Individuals in 2024-25, alongside £3m of National Lottery income.

Without confirmation of release of this budget, Creative Scotland does not have enough funds available to support all the funding routes that we currently provide, as set out in our [Annual Plan for 2024-25](#).

All currently submitted Open Fund for Individuals applications will be processed as per the [published Guidance](#). The [National Lottery Open Fund for Organisations](#) remains open.

Iain Munro, CEO of Creative Scotland said:

*“The level of uncertainty regarding the provision of Grant-in-Aid budgets from the Scottish Government is creating critical problems for the ongoing support we can provide to Scotland’s culture sector.*

*“This decision to close the Open Fund for Individuals is not one we would have wanted to take but is unavoidable without the funding from the Scottish Government being available.*

*“Like everyone working in Scotland’s culture and creative sector, we understand the extreme pressures on public finances but want to see longer term budget certainty from the Scottish Government, including the additional £100m announced in September 2023, details of which have yet to emerge.”*

ends

## Document 10

**From:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024  
**Sent:** Monday, August 19, 2024 5:36 PM  
**To:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsAndCulture@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR CLEARANCE- Media enquiry: Scotsman - Creative Scotland Open Fund

Hi [redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

Thanks, Mr Robertson is content

[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 19, 2024 5:22 PM  
**To:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR CLEARANCE- Media enquiry: Scotsman - Creative Scotland Open Fund

We've noticed that a number of outlets have confused the funding awarded to CS. The £6.6m they are referring to below is different from the £6.6m we reinstated.

We'd propose adding a note in background to that effect.

Grateful if you can advise if Cab Sec is content with the below.

### **A Scottish Government spokesperson said:**

"The Scottish Government already provides significant funding to Creative Scotland each year and will continue to do so.

"We have increased arts culture funding this year, as the first step to achieving our commitment to invest at least £100 million more annually in culture and the arts by 2028/29.

"The Scottish Budget continues to face significant challenges. We are considering the implications of the actions announced by the Chancellor on 29 July for our public finances, and the next steps required by the Scottish Government."

### **Background**

The Scottish Government has already released £6.6 million in funding to recompense Creative Scotland for the funding that was not provided in 2023/2024. Creative Scotland is referring to an additional £6.6 million.

[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

News | Communications [redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

Constitution, External Affairs and Culture Communications

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

Mobile: [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] | Portfolio media enquiries: 0300 244 9029

[www.gov.scot/news](http://www.gov.scot/news)



**From:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** Monday, August 19, 2024 3:22 PM

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>

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

<CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>

**Subject:** FOR CLEARANCE- Media enquiry: Scotsman - Creative Scotland Open Fund

**Cabinet Secretary/PO**

### **CAB SEC MAY BE ASKED ABOUT THIS IN MEDIA INTERVIEWS**

Following Creative Scotland's announcement that they are closing the Open Fund for individuals as SG has not been able to confirm details of funding. Full CS comms below.

We've pulled the below lines together with officials. SpAds are content.

Grateful for your view.

Thanks,

[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

#### **A Scottish Government spokesperson said:**

"The Scottish Government already provides significant funding to Creative Scotland each year and will continue to do so.

"We have increased arts culture funding this year, as the first step to achieving our commitment to invest at least £100 million more annually in culture and the arts by 2028/29.

"The Scottish Budget continues to face significant challenges. We are considering the implications of the actions announced by the Chancellor on 29 July for our public finances, and the next steps required by the Scottish Government."

#### **Creative Scotland statement**

#### **Open Fund for Individuals: closure of fund**

Creative Scotland has taken the difficult decision to close the [Open Fund for Individuals](#) to new applications due to the Scottish Government being unable to confirm release of £6.6m in Grant-in-Aid budget in the current financial year, 2024-25.

**The Fund will close to new applications from 2pm on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024.**

Creative Scotland planned to apply £3m of the £6.6m budget to support the Open Fund for Individuals in 2024-25, alongside £3m of National Lottery income.

Without confirmation of release of this budget, Creative Scotland does not have enough funds available to support all the funding routes that we currently provide, as set out in our [Annual Plan for 2024-25](#).

All currently submitted Open Fund for Individuals applications will be processed as per the [published Guidance](#). The [National Lottery Open Fund for Organisations](#) remains open.

Iain Munro, CEO of Creative Scotland said:

*“The level of uncertainty regarding the provision of Grant-in-Aid budgets from the Scottish Government is creating critical problems for the ongoing support we can provide to Scotland’s culture sector.*

*“This decision to close the Open Fund for Individuals is not one we would have wanted to take but is unavoidable without the funding from the Scottish Government being available.*

*“Like everyone working in Scotland’s culture and creative sector, we understand the extreme pressures on public finances but want to see longer term budget certainty from the Scottish Government, including the additional £100m announced in September 2023, details of which have yet to emerge.”*

ends

## Document 11

**From:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024  
**Sent:** Monday, August 19, 2024 5:36 PM  
**To:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsAndCulture@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR CLEARANCE- Media enquiry: Scotsman - Creative Scotland Open Fund

HI [redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

Many thanks, Mr Robertson is content

[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 19, 2024 5:23 PM  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR CLEARANCE- Media enquiry: Scotsman - Creative Scotland Open Fund

PO

Grateful for clearance of the lines below – Scotsman, PA, BBC, The Bookseller and The Times have all asked for the lines.

Here is some reaction.

**Lori Anderson, director of Scottish arts industry body Culture Counts**, said: “This news from Creative Scotland is a further serious blow to Scotland's culture sector, and is being met with anger and dismay.

“Closing this fund will cut deep at the heart of the sector, impacting those who are most vulnerable leaving many of our artists, writers and producers unable to access the support they most vitally need to support their practice.

“This fragile community of freelancers and other creative practitioners are already under considerable pressure with many choosing to leave the sector unable to sustain and support themselves.

“The decision to close this fund and cut other much needed and committed budgets could have devastating and irreversible consequences and shows the significant levels of uncertainty that the national arts body and wider sector are currently working under.

“We call upon the Scottish Government to make no further in-year cuts, reverse this decision and provide clarity on culture funding through bringing forward as much of the promised £100 million increased investment in culture now when it is most needed to inflict no further damage and secure the sector’s future.”

### **Statement by Literature Alliance Scotland in response to Creative Scotland’s decision to close the Open Fund for Individuals**

Literature Alliance Scotland is deeply concerned by the announcement today that the Creative Scotland Open Fund for Individuals will be closing on 30 August 2024. We are also concerned by the way in which this news has been communicated. Literature Alliance Scotland and other literature organisations were not consulted and had no prior warning of this decision, and we are extremely worried about the impact that it will have on writers in Scotland and about the anxiety and instability that it will create in the sector.

The Open Fund for Individuals has been one of Creative Scotland’s key funding programmes, supporting a wide range of activity initiated by artists, writers, producers and other creative practitioners in Scotland. The intended annual budget for this fund was £6.6 million, and it has been vital in sustaining the work of freelance writers.

Many writers credit support from this fund and its predecessors with underpinning careers that would otherwise have been out of reach. Among them is James Robertson, winner of the Walter Scott Prize and Booker Prize longlistee. Robertson said:

“I would not have been able to establish my career if I had been unable to apply to Scottish Arts Council – as it was then – for individual funding.”

Robertson is deeply concerned about the impact of the fund closure on individuals. He said:

“The idea that individual artists cannot apply for funding from their national arts body seems to attack the very baseline of where arts come from. For writers this is a disaster, and people right across the arts will feel they have been told, ‘This world is not for you’.”

Novelist Lucy Ribchester has also spoken today about how her career was helped by the Open Fund for Individuals:

“I received a Creative Scotland Open Fund grant in 2017, at a crucial juncture in my career. My first two novels had been published in a two-book deal, and marketed as commercial fiction. But I had also begun to expand my creative range in short stories, which had been shortlisted for two major awards; the COSTA Short Story Award and Manchester Fiction Prize. I really wanted to push myself further with my novel writing craft. The Creative Scotland grant allowed me to take a break from commercial publishing and place creative ambition and craft above the market value for my work. Ultimately it gave me breathing space to develop as a writer.”

Without access to the Open Fund, many writers will struggle to find support for their creative work. In 2022, Literature Alliance Scotland commissioned research by Ruthless Research on the situation of freelancers in the literature sector. The resulting report showed how precarious the livelihood of freelancers has become, and today's announcement does not bode well for rebuilding the viability of the sector and enabling writers to build sustainable careers. The speed of this decision and the manner of its communication raise concerns for us about writers' wellbeing.

Literature Alliance Scotland calls on Creative Scotland and on the Scottish Government to rethink this decision and to engage with individuals and organisations in the literature sector to ensure that writers and other artists are not deprived of the funding they need to continue their valuable creative work, and that those who find themselves already in a difficult position are not pushed further into crisis.

ENDS

**From:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** Monday, August 19, 2024 3:22 PM

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>

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

<CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsandCulture@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>

**Subject:** FOR CLEARANCE- Media enquiry: Scotsman - Creative Scotland Open Fund

**Cabinet Secretary/PO**

### **CAB SEC MAY BE ASKED ABOUT THIS IN MEDIA INTERVIEWS**

Following Creative Scotland's announcement that they are closing the Open Fund for individuals as SG has not been able to confirm details of funding. Full CS comms below.

We've pulled the below lines together with officials. SpAds are content.

Grateful for your view.

Thanks,

[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

**A Scottish Government spokesperson said:**

"The Scottish Government already provides significant funding to Creative Scotland each year and will continue to do so.

"We have increased arts culture funding this year, as the first step to achieving our commitment to invest at least £100 million more annually in culture and the arts by 2028/29.

“The Scottish Budget continues to face significant challenges. We are considering the implications of the actions announced by the Chancellor on 29 July for our public finances, and the next steps required by the Scottish Government.”

## **Creative Scotland statement**

### **Open Fund for Individuals: closure of fund**

Creative Scotland has taken the difficult decision to close the [Open Fund for Individuals](#) to new applications due to the Scottish Government being unable to confirm release of £6.6m in Grant-in-Aid budget in the current financial year, 2024-25.

### **The Fund will close to new applications from 2pm on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024.**

Creative Scotland planned to apply £3m of the £6.6m budget to support the Open Fund for Individuals in 2024-25, alongside £3m of National Lottery income.

Without confirmation of release of this budget, Creative Scotland does not have enough funds available to support all the funding routes that we currently provide, as set out in our [Annual Plan for 2024-25](#).

All currently submitted Open Fund for Individuals applications will be processed as per the [published Guidance](#). The [National Lottery Open Fund for Organisations](#) remains open.

Iain Munro, CEO of Creative Scotland said:

*“The level of uncertainty regarding the provision of Grant-in-Aid budgets from the Scottish Government is creating critical problems for the ongoing support we can provide to Scotland’s culture sector.*

*“This decision to close the Open Fund for Individuals is not one we would have wanted to take but is unavoidable without the funding from the Scottish Government being available.*

*“Like everyone working in Scotland’s culture and creative sector, we understand the extreme pressures on public finances but want to see longer term budget certainty from the Scottish Government, including the additional £100m announced in September 2023, details of which have yet to emerge.”*

ends





I am pleased to confirm that, as per normal procedure we have now completed our due diligence and can confirm the release of the additional £6.6m to Creative Scotland for the following use as agreed by your board:

	<b>£m</b>
Open Fund	3.000
Screen Production	1.000
EDI	1.500
Net Zero	0.385
Cultural Business Development	0.500
National Youth Arts Strategy Development	0.050
International Strategy Development	0.050
Strategic Fund	0.115
<b>Total</b>	<b>6.600</b>

We plan to include in the announcement tomorrow regarding the PFG commitment around a review of Creative Scotland that this funding has now been released so we would welcome you not announcing this publicly until then. I will update the budget allocation letter and reissue to you shortly.

In relation to the £1.8m for YMI Access & Strengthening this has also completed the due diligence process. [redacted - s.30(b)]

Kind Regards

[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

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

## Document 13

**From:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)]I <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]I@gov.scot>

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 28, 2024 12:14 PM

**To:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Lisa Baird <Lisa.Baird@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Cc:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Constitution, External Affairs and Culture <CommunicationsConstitutionExternalAffairsAndCulture@gov.scot>

**Subject:** MEDIA QUERY - Musicians send letter to FM on culture crisis - Scotsman

Good afternoon colleagues

The Scotsman is asking for a response to a further open letter to FM and Cab Sec Culture, asking for SG to pay Creative Scotland its £6,6m so it can reopen the Open Fund.

The reporter is also asking for a full list of SG arts commitments which have been cancelled or are on hold.

I suggest a tweak to the line we have been using on this issue.

I have also started a list of money cancelled/on hold – can this be clarified please.

I will also check to see whether this came up on the FM visit to Sistema.

Thanks

[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

### **A Scottish Government spokesperson said:**

“The Scottish Government already provides significant funding to Creative Scotland each year and will continue to do so. **The £6.6 million allocated in the Scottish Government budget for 2024/2025, as is normal practice, is undergoing due diligence before a decision on its release.**”

“The Culture Secretary is in regular contact with the sector to discuss the issues it currently faces and how to address those challenges. We will continue to do everything within our powers and resources to protect our world class arts and culture sector.

“We have increased arts culture funding this year, as the first step to achieving our commitment to invest at least £100 million more annually in culture and the arts by 2028/29.”

### **MONEY ON HOLD/CANCELLED**

Creative Scotland £6.6 million – undergoing due diligence

Youth Music Initiative £1.8 million - undergoing due diligence

V&A Dundee £800,000 – awaiting further information from V&A which is due in September

Culture Collective (£XXX) and PLACE funding (£XXX) reallocated in the Culture budget

## **QUERY**

I've attached an open letter from the Scottish Music Industry Association and the link below is to the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland website.

It would be good to get something from both Mr Swinney and Mr Robertson on this issue.

For the sake of absolute clarity, I would also like a full breakdown of all Scottish Government funding for arts organisations - including national companies and national collections organisations - which was previously committed for this financial year which has either been cancelled or is currently on hold.

<https://www.rcs.ac.uk/news-stories/letter-creative-scotland/>

[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

**News | Senior Media Manager**

**Constitution, External Affairs and Culture Communications**

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

Mobile: [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] | Portfolio Media inquiries: 0300 244 9029

## Document 14

**From:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** First Minister  
**Sent:** Monday, September 2, 2024 9:04 AM  
**To:** Central Correspondence Unit <CentralCorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <CabSecCEAC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government <DLODOBVSFLG@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Spads Admin <Spads\_Admin@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** FW: Open Letter on the closure of Creative Scotland's Open Fund for Individuals, and the delay in opening applications for the Access to Music Making and Strengthening Youth Music Funds  
**Importance:** High

Grateful if a response can issue from the relevant portfolio Minister please.

Thanks

[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]  
Office of the First Minister  
Scottish Government  
5TH floor/St Andrews House/Regent Road  
Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
Tel [redacted - s.38(1)(b)]  
Mobile [redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

### The First Minister's box closes at 2pm, Monday to Friday.

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

**From:** Robert Kilpatrick <[robert@smia.org.uk](mailto:robert@smia.org.uk)>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 30, 2024 6:48 PM  
**To:** First Minister <[firstminister@gov.scot](mailto:firstminister@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture 2024 <[CabSecCEAC@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecCEAC@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Finance & Local Government <[CabSecFLG@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecFLG@gov.scot)>; [redacted - s.38(1)(b)] <[redacted - s.38(1)(b)]@smia.org.uk>  
**Subject:** Open Letter on the closure of Creative Scotland's Open Fund for Individuals, and the delay in opening applications for the Access to Music Making and Strengthening Youth Music Funds  
**Importance:** High

Dear First Minister John Swinney,

As you may have seen, on Wednesday this week (28 August), the Scottish Music Industry Association (SMIA) published an open letter regarding the closure of Creative Scotland's Open Fund for Individuals and the delay in opening applications for the Access to Music Making and Strengthening Youth Music Funds. These decisions, resulting from the Scottish Government's inability to confirm the release of previously allocated Grant-in-Aid funding, have ignited the worst crisis that Scotland's music and wider arts sector has ever faced.

The SMIA invited artists, industry professionals and music businesses to become signatories of the letter ahead of us sending it to you. The deadline for signatories was 2pm today (Friday 30 August) – the same time that Creative Scotland's Open Fund for Individuals closed.

Please find the letter attached.

It has been signed by over 1,900 artists and music industry professionals. Artist signatories include Biffy Clyro, Lewis Capaldi, Franz Ferdinand, Shirley Manson (Garbage), The Proclaimers, Karine Polwart, Mogwai, Young Fathers, Glasvegas, Frightened Rabbit, Joesef, The Twilight Sad, Honeyblood, Fatherson, Barry Can't Swim, Kathryn Joseph, Fergus McCreadie and many more. A number of signatories also provided us with statements, which we have included in the letter.

The letter calls on the Scottish Government to take the following immediate actions to safeguard the sector's immediate survival and support its long-term sustainability:

1. Confirm the previously committed cultural investment of £10.7 million for this financial year, allowing Creative Scotland to re-open the Open Fund for Individuals and open applications for the Access to Music Making and Strengthening Youth Music Funds.
2. Ensure that the planned £25 million increase in cultural funding for 2025 is secured by the start of the new financial year (1 April 2025). Additionally, expedite the distribution of as much of the pledged £100 million annual cultural funding increase by 2028-29 as early as possible.

As well as sending the letter by email, a physical copy has also been sent to you by post. It was posted this afternoon by No Windows – who won the Sound of Young Scotland Award last year – on behalf of the SMIA and all signatories.

We are fully aware of the significant financial challenges facing the Scottish Government at present, and that all but essential spending is frozen. Failure to address these crucial funding needs will, however, lead to widespread job losses, the erosion of sector skills and irreversible damage to Scotland's cultural landscape. Culture funding, therefore, must be deemed essential.

Sincerely,  
Robert

--

**Robert Kilpatrick** he/him  
CEO and Creative Director

**Scottish Music Industry Association (SMIA)**

c/o Scottish Music Centre, 100 Candleriggs, Glasgow, G1 1NQ

**M:** [redacted - s.38(1)(b)]

**E:** [robert@smia.org.uk](mailto:robert@smia.org.uk) **W:** [smia.org.uk](http://smia.org.uk)

**T:** [twitter.com/TheSMIA](https://twitter.com/TheSMIA) **F:** [facebook.com/TheSMIA](https://facebook.com/TheSMIA)

## Document 15

Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs  
and Culture  
Angus Robertson MSP



T: 0300 244 4000  
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Robert Kilpatrick  
CEO and Creative Director,  
Scottish Music Industry Association (SMIA)

4 September 2024

Dear Robert

Thank you for your email to the First Minister and your work to draw attention to your members of Creative Scotland's plans to close the Open Fund.

Both the First Minister, my Cabinet colleagues and I greatly value the importance of the arts especially the significant contribution freelance artists and creatives make not only to wellbeing but to the cultural, social and economic life in communities across Scotland. The announcement reaffirmed earlier this year by the First Minister to increase funding for culture and the arts so that it is at least £100m more annually by 2028/29 clearly signals the Government's confidence in the sector; borne out by making the first incremental increase to the sector by almost £16m in 2024/25 and the pledge to increase that further in the forthcoming budget.

The Scottish Government provides significant funding to Creative Scotland each year, and will continue doing so, and so it was disappointing that Creative Scotland took the decision about the Open Fund last week. Before any funding from the Scottish Budget is released due diligence is routinely carried out to ensure value for money and the appropriate use of public funding. Creative Scotland submitted its plans for use of the £6.6m in June this year following approval of its Board, and I am now delighted to confirm that due diligence has now concluded, and both £1.8m for the Youth Music Access and Strengthening Fund and the £6.6m has been released to Creative Scotland. The latter includes £3m for the Open Fund for individuals and it is my firm expectation that the fund will be reopened imminently.

I hope that you agree that this is very welcome news that we have been able to protect this funding, despite the difficult financial position the Scottish Government faces.

Please feel free to share this letter with your members and on your website.

**ANGUS ROBERTSON**

The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh EH99 1SP [www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)