

**1. Extract from Briefing for the Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture attending the British Film Commission and Screen Scotland Networking Event on 13 March 2025.**

***Summerwater***, Broadcast Content Fund

You visited this set with the First Minister on 17 February. This production received £700,000 through the Broadcast Content Fund from Screen Scotland.

*Synopsis: Summerwater* is a six episode adaptation of Sarah Moss' critically acclaimed novel. Set against the backdrop of a remote lochside Scottish holiday cabin park and set over the course of one single rainy summer's day, *Summerwater* looks at the simmering tensions between holidaymakers that eventually erupt into a devastating climax.

**2. Extract from Background Note for PQ S6O-04347 for the Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture – 21 February 2025.**

I recently visited the set of a new Channel 4 production, *Summerwater*, which is a Scottish originated project produced and filmed in Scotland. This is one of many projects supported through Screen Scotland's Broadcast Content Fund, which generates lasting benefits to build companies of scale, reflect Scottish culture, creativity and diversity, and provide employment and training for home-grown talent behind and in front of the camera.

**3. Briefing for the First Minister Channel 4 *Summerwater* Set Visit on 17 February 2025.**

**BRIEFING FOR THE FIRST MINISTER**

**Channel 4 *Summerwater* - Set Visit**

**Date 17 February 2025**

<b>Key message</b>	<p>The Scottish Government is a strong supporter of our screen sector and we are committed to seizing the significant opportunities for growth, and working with our dedicated public body, Screen Scotland, to maximise the cultural and economic benefits that the sector brings.</p> <p>We are focused on building the skills, talent, support system and infrastructure to capitalise on the continued strong interest in production in Scotland, and continue to develop our sustainable creative economy.</p> <p>This production received £700,000 through the Broadcast Content Fund from Screen Scotland. This fund is supported by Scottish Government funding.</p>
<b>What</b>	Meet production teams and key representatives of Channel 4.
<b>Why</b>	A positive opportunity to showcase Scotland’s screen industry, which has improved and developed substantially in recent years. This will also be an opportunity for Channel 4 to demonstrate their commitment to producing in Scotland.
<b>Who</b>	<p>Mike Ellen, Managing Director and Creative Director at Freedom Scripted</p> <p>Jules Hussey, Series Producer at Freedom Scripted</p> <p>Jo Street, Director of Commissioning, Nations and Regions and Head of Glasgow Hub at Channel 4</p> <p>Gemma Boswell, Commissioning Editor at Channel 4</p>
<b>Where</b>	<b>[Section 33(1)(b)]</b>
<b>When</b>	<p>17 February 2025,</p> <p>First Minister 13.45-15:45</p> <p>Cabinet Secretary 13:00-15:45</p>
<b>Likely themes</b>	<p>Investment in the screen industry, including screen skills and creating a sustainable screen industry in Scotland;</p> <p>Skills Development and developing the talent pipeline;</p> <p>Regional production quotas outside of London.</p>
<b>Media</b>	<b>Comms plan will follow in a separate document from the FM comms team.</b>
<b>Supporting officials</b>	<b>[section 38(1)(b)]</b>
<b>Attached documents</b>	<p>Annex A – Agenda and Summary</p> <p>Annex B – Summerwater Background</p> <p><b>[out of scope]</b></p>

## **Agenda and Summary**

This is a culture visit that the First Minister has requested to undertake with the Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture on Monday 17 February. This is an opportunity to show support for our burgeoning screen industry, and to engage with one of our key public service broadcasters, Channel 4.

### **Key outcomes for this engagement are:**

1. Showcase Partnerships – A great example of Channel 4 working in partnership with Scottish producers, Screen Scotland and the wider Scottish production sector.
2. Highlight Skills Development – Demonstrate the breadth of talent and opportunities available within Scotland. Including traineeships made possible through Screen Scotland funding.
3. Explore Economic and Cultural Impact – Explore the economic impact and cultural benefits productions like this one are having in Scotland.
4. Discuss Channel 4's new Nations and Regions strategy and plans for increasing its impact in Scotland – Aimed at harnessing the creative power of the Scottish indie sector, the strategy is designed to ensure Channel 4 supports growth in Scotland and across the UK and fully represents the nation on-screen.

### **[out of scope]**

## **Agenda**

*If there are any changes, this will be reflected in the Ops Note from the Visits and Events Team*

First Minister arrives **13:45**, Cabinet Secretary arrives **13:30**

### **13:45 – After First Minister arrives - Welcome and Introduction**

- Meet at unit base and be introduced to Jules Hussey (Production), Jo Street (Channel 4) and Isabel Davis (Screen Scotland).
- Short tour of the base before being transported to the set.

### **13:55 – Travel**

### **14:00– Interactive walkthrough of set.**

- Shooting in process, meet crew, watch some filming and have a chat with key creatives.
- Photo opportunity during walkthrough with SG photographer

### **14:30– Conversations with key crew members over refreshments.**

- More detailed conversations with team members including the producers, location manager, sound and access coordinators, and trainees. **(Trainee details on Annex G)** This will be in the garden centre cafe (another set location). The owners will be there to speak to the First Minister and there will also be members of the public using the cafe. Further photo opportunities with local businesses benefitting from cultural industries and trainees.

**14:55 – Media interviews**

**15:15– Closing Remarks/All Guests Depart.**

**Key attendees (bios in Annex F)**

Mike Ellen, Managing Director and Creative Director at Freedom Scripted (the Glasgow-based company producing the TV series)

Jules Hussey, Series Producer at Freedom Scripted (the Glasgow-based company producing the TV series)

Jo Street, Director of Commissioning, Nations and Regions and Head of Glasgow Hub at Channel 4

Gemma Boswell, Commissioning Editor at Channel 4

**[section 38(1)(b)]**

Rebecca Thompson, Head of Indie Relations at Channel 4

**[section 38(1)(b)]**

Isabel Davis, Executive Director of Screen at Screen Scotland

**[out of scope]**

## SUMMERWATER BACKGROUND

Summerwater is a six episode adaptation of Sarah Moss' critically acclaimed novel. Set against the backdrop of a remote lochside Scottish holiday cabin park and set over the course of one single rainy summer's day, Summerwater looks at the simmering tensions between holidaymakers that eventually erupt into a devastating climax. Weaving together the lives of several families as they navigate unspoken conflicts, private dilemmas, and fleeting moments of beauty from their disparate cabins, the series will take an unflinching but empathetic look at human nature across generations. Each episode will spotlight one or two of the ensemble of characters, spanning from young children to young lovers to reminiscing pensioners, to build a subversive, often witty, and always riveting portrait of the nation on edge that is modern Britain.

**Cast (Confidential - not yet announced)** includes: Dougray Scott, Shirley Henderson, Valene Kane. The cast who will be filming scenes on the day of the visit are four of the younger cast. The production team have said that senior cast members who aren't filming that day may also be in attendance, but this has not been confirmed.

**Production Crew:** All but five of the production crew of Summerwater (incl. edit) out of approx. 80, are based in Scotland. All trainees and all suppliers are Scotland based. Robert McKillop directs; Jules Hussey is series producer.

Filming began in late November 2024 in Scotland. The series is being produced by Glasgow-based Freedom Scripted, a Channel 4 Indie Growth Fund backed indie. This production received £700,000 through the Broadcast Content Fund from Screen Scotland.

### **Production Company – Freedom Scripted**

Founded in 2018 by former BBC, STV and World Productions development producer Mike Ellen, and headquartered in Glasgow, Freedom Scripted focuses on high-end contemporary drama and has a range of projects currently in development working with some of the most exciting and diverse talent across the UK. Freedom Scripted have teamed up with the writer of Shetland to create a crime drama called *Morrow*, based on a series of books by author Denise Mina. Freedom Scripted will also be adapting *Engleby*, the cult 2007 novel by bestselling author Sebastian Faulks.