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Clare Adamson MSP
Convener Constitution, Europe, External Affairs
and Culture Committee
Scottish Parliament

Our ref: Letter Post Committee appearance 9.06.22
5th July 2022

Dear Clare,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to discuss the outcome of the Resource Spending Review with the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee on 9 June 2022.

At the committee session I undertook to write to you with further information on three matters:

- The strategy for collaboration across Scottish Government and with Local Authorities regarding the Resource Spending Review.
- The financial contribution of the UK Government towards the cycling world championships;
- Reduction in funding of Arts & Business Scotland

This letter covers the second two points. I will write to you separately in due course regarding the first point.

2023 UCI Cycling World Championships

The 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships will be the first time 13 UCI cycling disciplines will have been brought together. Hosting this inaugural event not only reinforces Scotland's reputation as the Perfect Stage for Major Events but also presents many exciting opportunities to deliver broader policy benefits.

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Funding support for the event is being provided by three principal funders, namely the Scottish Government, Glasgow City Council and UK Sport. UK Sport is the nation's high-performance sports agency, funded by the UK Government and the National Lottery, and is contributing up to £4.5 million to the overall budget. Please be assured that the full range of partners involved, in addition to the funding partners, are working collaboratively to deliver a successful event.

We have a real opportunity for this event to have a lasting impact for cycling in Scotland, and the vision is that the Championships can be a catalyst for behaviour change across Scotland from 2019 to 2027.

The wider policy ambition is for the 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships to deliver an innovative event that inspires the Scottish nation to ride bikes, and will use the power of the bike to help meet the Scottish Government's transport, health and environmental aims, in addition to supporting economic recovery from COVID. There is a great deal of activity underway to ensure the event can deliver impacts in communities across the country, with particular focus on cycling participation, sustainability and equality, diversity and inclusion.

I would welcome further engagement with this Committee and with the Scottish Parliament more generally in the lead up to the event to highlight opportunities relating to its policy objectives and to increase awareness of the event across Scotland and internationally.

Arts & Business Scotland

I am aware of the important role that Arts & Business Scotland play in funding cultural and heritage projects in Scotland.

Arts & Business Scotland receive funding from Scottish Government for their Culture & Business Fund. This funding is administered on Scottish Government's behalf by Creative Scotland. In previous years this funding was £300,000 per year but this has been reduced in 2022/2023 to £200,000 due to budget pressures.

My officials met with Arts & Business Scotland Officials and Creative Scotland in late April to discuss the situation. Scottish Government officials and Creative Scotland officials committed to working more closely with Arts & Business Scotland in the future. My officials are continuing to engage with Arts & Business Scotland regarding the implications of the reduction in funding.

The Scottish Government already provides significant support to the culture and heritage sectors including £33.87 million through Creative Scotland to regularly funded cultural organisations.

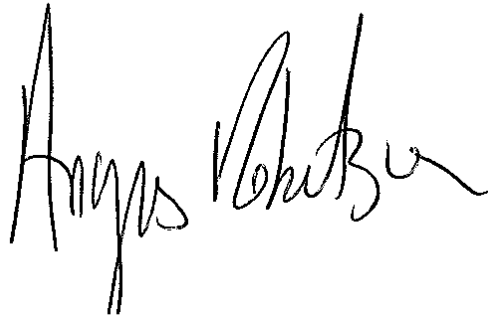
I appreciate that the reduction in funding for Arts & Business Scotland will have an impact on the projects that they fund. Applicants to the Arts & Business Scotland fund may be eligible for the Creative Scotland's Open Fund which is available for individuals and organisations who have projects involving the arts, screen and creative industries. Further information on the Open Fund is available at the link below:

[Open Fund: Sustaining Creative Development | Creative Scotland](#)

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I trust the information provided in this letter is helpful.

Yours Sincerely ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angus Robertson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and 'R'.

Angus Robertson

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