



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Jamie Halcro Johnston MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament | Highlands and Islands

Iain Munro
Creative Scotland
Waverley Gate
2 - 4 Waterloo Place
Edinburgh EH1 3EG

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Dear Iain,

During my MSP Advice Surgery Tour over the summer, concerns were raised with me by constituents over the availability of funding from Creative Scotland, particularly in relation to smaller productions or events in more remote locations in the Highlands and Islands.

This was a real concern for those involved in bringing productions or organising events in local village halls and community centres across my region, where there is a belief that, as well as less funding being available, increasing criteria – or, as some described them, or barriers, are being added, making applying for funding even harder to access for smaller, more remote venues.

I am told that this has had a knock-on effect on the range of events, productions, etc that organisations can offer – something which, I'm sure you would agree, would be a great loss for those living in our rural communities. This funding has provided vital support to these often very small local organisations and they are understandably worried over what any loss of funding would mean for the future.

I would therefore be grateful for advice regarding the concerns outlined above, and also what funding is available for supporting these sorts of smaller productions in our communities.

As I'm sure you will agree, it is vital that Scotland's creative output is not just focused on the central belt or our large towns and cities, but is supported in local communities right across the country.

Thank you for your attention in this matter and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Jamie Halcro Johnston MSP
Member of the Scottish Parliament
Highlands and Islands Region