



Mr Pete Wishart MP

Chair of the Scottish Affairs Committee
House of Commons
SW1A 0AA

30 May 2022

Dear Chair,

Many thanks for inviting us to give evidence regarding Public Broadcasting in Scotland. We hope our appearance proved useful and informative. We wanted to take the opportunity to follow up in writing to set out our economic contribution to Scotland's film and TV sector.

As we mentioned in our evidence, Scotland has been home to Amazon since 2004 when we opened our first development centre outside of North America in Edinburgh. Since then we have continued to invest and now have over 2,500 permanent employees spread across 10+ sites supporting our retail and operations business. We have sponsored the Edinburgh TV festival since 2015 (with Georgia taking on the role of Advisory Chair in 2021) and after our UK Amazon Originals team was set up in 2018, it seemed only natural for us to think about how to continue to direct our investment in Scotland, and support the development of its creative industries.

It's important to put our investment into perspective. We greenlight only a handful of UK shows every year, and are incredibly thoughtful about how we invest in the UK. Our very first scripted UK Originals went into production only last year and it is very much Day One for us in terms of our investment. That said, we're incredibly proud of our investment in the Scottish screen sector to date. We're not surprised that production spend in Scotland is now the highest on record¹ and the strength of the industry has already been able to attract a diverse range of our productions. In the last 12 months alone, we have directly invested over £50million in the Scottish screen sector, supporting over 750 jobs and providing over 60 traineeship opportunities. We are currently looking at how to further support the Scottish skills pipeline and will keep in touch as we finalise our plans over the coming months.

We were excited to become the first tenants of Edinburgh's First Stage Studios while shooting our biggest UK Original to date, *The Rig*, last year; and it is now home to our 6-part TV adaptation of Neil Gaiman's *Anansi Boys*. After filming across the Highlands in 2020, *the Grand Tour Presents Lochdown* team filmed across the Highlands in 2020 meanwhile our latest co-production with BBC Studios, *Good Omens Season 2*, recently completed filming at Pyramid Studios in Leith – one of 25 co-productions we have committed to with the UK Public Service Broadcasters.

The success of the creative industries in Scotland and across the UK more widely is in part down to access to world leading talent and we know we have a role to play in supporting the development of a sustainable pipeline of talent. It's why we're investing £10million over the next three years, including a partnership with the National Film and Television School to broaden access to the sector and provide more opportunities for those from all backgrounds². We have committed to ensuring at least 50% of the places will be for students based outside of London.

This is in addition to creating bespoke programmes to support training opportunities across each of our individual productions, which to date has seen us partner with the likes of Screen NETS, Directors UK, Screen Skills and Screen Scotland. We also recently committed to providing stepping up schemes across all of our UK Original, to help support talent to take the next step up in their careers.

¹ <https://www.scotland.org/features/film-industry-recovers-from-pandemic>

² <https://variety.com/2022/tv/news/amazon-prime-video-training-uk-1235193020/>

AMAZON UK SERVICES LTD.

REGISTERED OFFICE: 1 PRINCIPAL PLACE, WORSHIP STREET, LONDON EC2A 2FA, UNITED KINGDOM

Registered in England and Wales • Company Registration No. 03223028 • VAT No. GB 680 737 022



This may only be Day One for us, but we know the continued success of the creative industries in Scotland will rely on world-leading talent and vital industry partnerships with screen organisations and our public sector broadcasters. This will not only support the sector to unlock lasting benefits, but help cement Scotland's burgeoning reputation as a world class production hub.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Bird".

Georgia Brown

Georgia Brown, Head of European Originals, Amazon Studios

Chris Bird, Managing Director, Prime Video UK

AMAZON UK SERVICES LTD.

REGISTERED OFFICE: 1 PRINCIPAL PLACE, WORSHIP STREET, LONDON EC2A 2FA, UNITED KINGDOM

Registered in England and Wales • Company Registration No. 03223028 • VAT No. GB 680 737 022