



Culture, Media and Sport Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Tel: 020 7219 6188; email: commonsCMS@parliament.uk; website: www.parliament.uk/cms

Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer

23 February 2024

Dear Jeremy,

Priorities for Spring Budget: Support for Independent British Film

Ahead of the Spring Budget, and following representations from across the film sector, I write to make the case for urgent intervention in support of our independent domestic film industry.

The strong performance of the UK's film and high-end television industry over recent years has almost entirely been generated by inward investment, primarily by major US studios and streaming companies.

At the same time, domestic films produced without creative or financial input from overseas is in crisis, accounting for just 11% of the total spend on UK film production last year. The impact of our increasing reliance on overseas work, and the vulnerability of our domestic sector, was laid bare last year when the US strikes led to our large studios lying dormant and total production spend fall by 40%. A blow for skills, jobs and our economy.

We must not lose sight of the cultural and economic value of independent British film. The challenges it currently faces will have far-reaching consequences on the next generation of talent, on the diverse slate of films crucial for the exhibition sector and ultimately on the core attractiveness of the UK as a destination for that vital inward investment.

To address this issue, we urge the Government to introduce enhanced tax relief for British films within a budget range of approximately £1 million to £15 million, building on modelling undertaken by industry bodies such as Pact and with the support of the BFI.

Enhanced tax relief will help ensure that more British stories are told and seen by wider audiences and add resilience to our home grown sector. Most importantly it will also give confidence to private investors, boosting investment that domestic producers can attract from other sources.

The industry is aligned in its support for these proposals: not only are experienced producers and directors calling for tiered tax relief, but the directors of BBC Film and Film4 tell us that it is the most significant intervention that Government can make to have an immediate impact on the sector and restore confidence.

We urge you to use the upcoming Spring Budget to demonstrate the Government's support for our important yet struggling independent film industry.

I am grateful for your consideration of this matter. I am also copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

Yours sincerely,

Dame Caroline Dinéage DBE MP
Chair, CMS Committee