



# Culture, Media and Sport Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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The Rt Hon Lucy Frazer KC MP  
Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport

By email

24 May 2024

Dear Lucy,

## **Inquiry on British Film and High-End Television**

The film and high-end TV industry is one of the UK's economic and cultural success stories, globally recognised and respected. Yet it faces considerable uncertainty.

Investment boomed after the pandemic, but fell dramatically last year leaving studios empty, crews out of work and cinemas questioning how to programme their screens. We have heard that these challenges could have been mitigated if the UK had a stronger domestic, independent sector and was less reliant on inward production. We believe this warrants further investigation.

We are also deeply concerned about skills, working conditions, and the retention of staff in the industry. More work is needed to get to grip with these issues, as a failure to do so now will harm our ability to attract and staff productions in the future.

We launched our inquiry last July in the midst of these challenges and have since received extensive engagement from the sector. Our early recommendation for an independent film tax credit helped to see it be delivered in March this year. This move, widely welcomed by the sector demonstrates the importance of Parliament looking in depth at the needs of this sector at this time.

We are grateful to all those who have submitted written and oral evidence, and spoken to us during the roundtables and visits detailed at the end of this letter. We are also grateful to Nick Mason Pearson and Dr Dominic Lees who served as specialist advisors to the inquiry.

We hope that the next Government will continue to champion and support all facets of our screen industries. Given the huge value that film and HETV contributes, and the deep questions that remain about its resilience, we strongly urge our successor Committee to revisit the evidence we have received and continue scrutiny of this vital industry.

Yours sincerely,

**Dame Caroline Dinenage DBE MP**  
**Chair, CMS Committee**

## ANNEX: Visits and Engagement

<p><b>Iver Heath, England (February 2023)</b></p>	<p>Visit to Pinewood Studios, including production sets, underwater stage and post-production studio.</p>																																								
<p><b>Manchester, England (January 2024)</b></p>	<p>Visit to set of BBC’s ‘Inside No. 9’ for discussions with cast, production crew (including trainees) and representatives of BBC comedy.</p> <p>Visit to set of ITV’s ‘Coronation Street’ for discussions with representatives of ITV Studios and associated labels, ITV Academy, ITV News and others across the business.</p>																																								
<p><b>Paris, France (February 2024)</b></p>	<p>Meetings with Dame Menna Rawlings DCMG CVO, His Majesty’s Ambassador to France, representatives of the Canal+ Group, Vivendi Foundation, the British Council, French Senators, including members of the National Assembly Committee on Cultural Affairs and Education, the Centre national du cinéma et de l’image animée (CNC), as well as visiting Studios de la Montjoie.</p>																																								
<p><b>London, England (March 2024)</b></p>	<p>Industry roundtable facilitated by the British Screen Forum to discuss challenges facing independent film. The following organisations were represented:</p> <table data-bbox="507 1218 1342 2063"> <tr> <td>British Screen Forum</td> <td>SISTER</td> </tr> <tr> <td>London Film School</td> <td>Together TV</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BASE/DEGI</td> <td>Artem Special Effects</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Film4</td> <td>Netflix</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Protagonist Pictures</td> <td>BBFC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ODEON Cinema Group</td> <td>Film Distributors' Association</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UK Cinema Association</td> <td>Sixteen Films</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Screen Scotland</td> <td>Sympathetic Ink</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 Mills Studios</td> <td>Harbottle &amp; Lewis</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Walt Disney Company</td> <td>Vue</td> </tr> <tr> <td>British Film Institute</td> <td>Film + TV Charity</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Equity</td> <td>Fieldfisher</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Character Seven</td> <td>Pinewood Studios Group</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wiggin LLP</td> <td>The Ingenious Group</td> </tr> <tr> <td>See-Saw Films</td> <td>Rationale Consulting</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BBC Film</td> <td>Resource Productions</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NBCUniversal International</td> <td>NFTS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Directors UK</td> <td>Channel 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Amazon</td> <td>ScreenSkills</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CMS CMNO</td> <td>British Film Commission/Film London</td> </tr> </table>	British Screen Forum	SISTER	London Film School	Together TV	BASE/DEGI	Artem Special Effects	Film4	Netflix	Protagonist Pictures	BBFC	ODEON Cinema Group	Film Distributors' Association	UK Cinema Association	Sixteen Films	Screen Scotland	Sympathetic Ink	3 Mills Studios	Harbottle & Lewis	Walt Disney Company	Vue	British Film Institute	Film + TV Charity	Equity	Fieldfisher	Character Seven	Pinewood Studios Group	Wiggin LLP	The Ingenious Group	See-Saw Films	Rationale Consulting	BBC Film	Resource Productions	NBCUniversal International	NFTS	Directors UK	Channel 4	Amazon	ScreenSkills	CMS CMNO	British Film Commission/Film London
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**Glasgow, Scotland**  
**(May 2024)**

Visit to BBC Studioworks at Kelvin Hall and meeting with representatives of Screen Scotland and Synchronicity Films.