

To Channel 4 and Ofcom

The Scottish Trades Union Congress represents more than 540,000 trade union members across Scotland.

Our creative unions – Bectu/Prospect, Equity, the Musicians Union, the Scottish Artists Union, the NUJ, the Society of Authors, the Scottish Society of Playwrights and the Writers Guild of Great Britain – represent tens of thousands of workers in Scotland’s creative industries – many of whom are dependent on work commissioned from Scotland-based production companies by public service broadcasters such as Channel 4.

Our members create and produce content for the BBC, ITV, C5, Amazon Prime, Netflix and many others, illustrating the extensive skills and experience that exists within Scotland’s creative workforce.

We believe a publicly owned, public service broadcaster, funded commercially by viewers from across the UK, should deliver against its remit in a way that benefits the four constituent parts of the UK fairly. The money it invests in UK content should deliver for the creative economies of all the UK.

The BBC accepted production targets that mirror the UK’s population in 2009 and we believe Channel 4 should do likewise.

We do not accept Channel 4’s argument that that “*the UK production sector continues to be significantly smaller outside London ... with less capacity to develop creative ideas and produce them, in comparison with London.*”

Indeed, it is imperative that we ensure that the benefits of our growing creative industries are shared across the UK – allowing people to benefit from job opportunities and greater access to culture across the UK. Broadcaster’s, particularly publicly owned broadcasters, have a duty to foster and support the creative economy across the UK.

As well as the potential benefit to Scotland’s writers, actors, and wider creative industries workforce, it is crucial that all parts of the UK are represented on our screens.

The UK's public service broadcasters are the bedrock of Scotland's creative economy and we strongly urge Ofcom to enshrine production that would reflect Scotland's share of the UK population as part of Channel 4's 10-year licence.

Yours sincerely

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Paul McManus, Negotiations Officer Scotland, BECTU/Prospect

Marlene Curran, Official for Scotland, Equity

Sam Dunkley, Acting Regional Organiser, Scotland and Northern Ireland Region, Musicians Union

B. D. Owens, President, Scottish Artists Union

Nick McGowan-Lowe, National Organiser for Scotland, National Union of Journalists

Linda Duncan McLaughlin and Peter Arnott, Co-Chairs, Scottish Society of Playwrights

John Sailing, Senior Organiser, Writers' Guild of Great Britain