

Speech notes for Janet Archer

Event: IFACCA open session slot

Date: 29 October 2016

Speech duration: 5 minutes (with 3 minutes for questions)

Draft

Context:

23rd June: EU Referendum result – 52% of those who voted in opted to Leave the EU.

For perspective: just over a quarter of the UK population voted to Leave (the rest either voted to Remain; didn't vote; or were not eligible to vote).

62% of voters in Scotland voted to Remain.

Since then, the Scottish Government has been vociferous in its desire to maintain a strong relationship with Europe, particularly in respect of the single market, but also in terms of free movement of people and collaboration/partnership with EU countries (and the rest of the world).

Worth remembering also that Culture is a fully devolved issue for the Scottish Government.

Creative Scotland reaction

Immediately following the EU Referendum outcome, we issued the following statement:

"The implications of the outcome of the EU Referendum will take time to unfold.

"However, we will continue to work with partners in Europe in many different ways. As set out in our 10 Year Plan, working internationally is an important part of what we do to ensure that Scotland remains a successful and distinctive creative nation connected to the world.

"Arts and culture transcend borders and bring people

together from across the globe. We will continue to do everything we can to support our vibrant arts, screen and creative industries to make and sustain fruitful, positive international relationships across Europe and beyond."

This statement reflects the feeling of everyone at Creative Scotland – staff, leadership and Board.

Working internationally is critical to the work of Creative Scotland and our role as set out, not just in our 10 year plan, but also defined in statute by the Scottish Parliament.

Through our work to ensure that Scotland remains a distinctive creative nation connected to the world, we aim to:

- Deepen artistic practice through international exchange
- Support international touring and showcasing
- Promote international cultural understanding
- Support creative organisations and artists to access global markets

We will, of course, do everything in our power to continue with this work.

Alongside this, in order to establish the feeling among people working across the arts, screen and creative industries in Scotland, we also conducted an open survey in August.

This survey, along with work we have been doing with

the British Film Institute and the Creative Industries Federation, has helped us identify the concerns that the creative and cultural sector in Scotland has regarding leaving the EU.

What the cultural sector in Scotland is telling us

It's safe to say that the vast majority of those working in the cultural sector in Scotland (and, indeed the rest of the UK) would prefer the UK to Remain in the EU. Recent figures from the Federation of Creative Industries indicate that more than 90% of their membership voted to Remain.

There are real concerns among the cultural community in Scotland as to the impact that leaving the EU will have on their work.

From our survey, almost half of respondents have received funding from the EU or have applied for EU funding and this support is highly valued – with almost all of recipients of EU funding agreeing that it opened up new networks, opportunities and partnerships beneficial to their work.

The cultural sector in Scotland is concerned about what the future holds in terms of:

- Travel and free movement of people
- Impact on international co-productions
- Touring and trade
- Reduced sources of funding and international disadvantage
- Rising costs as the pound depreciates
- Staffing and job security
- Impact on rural areas where the benefits EU funding

has been particularly evident.

In addition to these real, practical concerns, ideologically the cultural sector in Scotland does not want to be seen to be moving away from internationalism, from looking outwards and from embracing Europe. This has always been a characteristic of Scottish culture and one which we desperately want to maintain.

A great example of that is the Edinburgh International Festival – the world’s biggest arts festival, running since 1947. This year, the International Festival’s key message emblazoned across the city was –*Welcome World*.

This signalled a set of values held close to folk in Scotland that are at the core of who we are as a people and how we want to be as a nation.

Given recent and ongoing world events, this message is more important than ever.

ENDS