

195

26 Tannoch Drive,
Glasgow G62 8AS

October 18, 2004

21 Oct, 2004

James Boyle,
Chair, Cultural Commission
The Cultural Commission
Broughton High School
Edinburgh EH4 1EG

Dear Mr. Boyle,

In response to your recent open letter in the "Evening Times", I would like to express my feelings about the rather negative and short-sighted approach taken by the Scottish Executive and the Scottish Arts Council regarding the future of Scottish Opera.

If you have a world class product, which we do have in Scottish Opera, then the world will come to see it. When tourists come to Scotland, for what ever reason, local communities benefit in many ways. For example, increased business for hotels, boarding houses, restaurants, shops, taxis etc. etc.

Scottish Opera's funding is well behind all other opera companies in the United Kingdom:-

Royal Opera House, Covent Garden	annual grant	£43m
English National Opera	annual grant	£13m
Opera North	annual grant	£9m
Welsh National Opera	annual grant	£12m

The above is in addition to the £200m and £40m refurbishment grants awarded to R.O.H and E.N.O respectively.

I do hope you will think seriously about the above points and perhaps even consider improving Scottish Opera's current funding.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

James Williamson