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**From:** Graham Knight [graham\_knight@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** 26 September 2004 12:37  
**To:** info  
**Subject:** Feed back on commission's remit[Scanned]

Dear sir or madam,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Cultural Commission's remit in response to the Minister's Cultural Policy Statement.

I studied and worked in Scotland for seven years until 2003 when a lack of work forced me to return home to South East and to London where I could find a more plentiful supply of employment. That said I still count myself as strongly tied to the Scottish media, even though I am not of Scottish origin and am no longer able to call Scotland my full time home. I still work in Scotland when projects allow and would love to move back full time. I have sought out employment opportunities with Scottish and Grampian and hope to build my freelance base in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen over the coming year.

This does however raise an interesting question for me, and a question that has always been present during my studies and my employment in Scotland: What constitutes a Scottish Citizen?

In this respect I have always fallen short, either by accent or by background, but as a freelance writer and researcher who has spent his fledgling years in the media in Scotland, I have had to question how inclusive the Scottish media sometimes is in its definition of a Citizen. Funding rights for new projects are tightly controlled, and rightly so, to foster a Scottish voice. However, I have found that in terms of the creative forum, commissioners are slow to pick up on projects that read the Scottish experience from an outsider's perspective and from the perspective of people that settle in Scotland and by necessity must endeavor to interpret its quite distinct culture.

I feel that when looking at the issue of the Citizen, the views of the outsider do need to be taken into account.

In terms of education, Scottish Screen is doing a sterling job! I have partaken in a number of their training seminars and found them to be well run and informative. Similarly, Skillset and Scottish Skills for Media seem to have made a real impact in terms of training and networking within the media industry.

I do feel that creatively the scene would benefit from a monthly free forum, perhaps hosted by a Scottish University in which speakers could talk on pertinent and pressing topic that are being faced by the Scottish Media. It would encourage networking and a free flow of ideas that any creative industry must count as its life-blood, and which I feel is currently lacking.

Thank you for this opportunity to make comment.

I hope you have a good response from your other colleagues.

Kind regards

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