



CC PHASE 2

Q&A Pan-Sectoral Questions

Answers
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Rights & Responsibilities (1-5)

I do not believe that cultural rights should be enshrined in law as culture is not easily defined and should not be restrained by administrative boundaries. The idea of 'rights' sounds like a frightening concept. Cultural accessibility is a freer concept and suggests cross-collaboration with cultural, social, local, governmental bodies.

In terms of social policy - I do think that cultural accessibility should extend to social policy in a way that avoids the entire process being bogged down by administration and red tape.

Guardianship of CR should be made up of a body that is formed from cultural/admin/executive heads that invites new people and opinions to contribute on a regular basis. All too often these panels involve the same people and new input is not forthcoming.

Cultural Leadership (6-15)

Leadership could be made up of non-exec creatives, while the Scottish Exec should work closely with them to implement changes and new benefits.

Communication is a key issue here and it is imperative that fresh voices are always heard, while all governing bodies should be encouraged to talk to and inform each other. This also applies to unis, colleges etc.

Local government should support but not become too involved in the artistic process, allowing for obvious restriction.

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Both public & private sectors should be encouraged to be more aware and lobbied to support. In return, regeneration of communities via the cultural sector will present renewed business and social possibility.

Artists would have a stronger voice if there were governing groups made up of different (and changing) voices - as in the people who have been involved in the workshops. Governing groups could meet to discuss specific topics affecting the industries - cultural surgeries.

All questions in this sector, I believe come down to better communication and awareness. I.e.: when governors etc talk about the creative industries in Scotland, the focus is on engineering/digital media. More traditional pursuits - music/film - are being sidelined partly via ignorance of the subjects and lack of representation at higher level.

Pan Sectoral Planning (16-21)

Individual cultural sector representatives could be voted from a shortlist via postal ballot. That way, those figures that have impact within the sectors have a chance of being elected, providing current representation.

New planning regime should be well informed on all cultural sectors, and have strong, current knowledge of them. Often, those representatives picked to represent cultural bodies can tend to seem removed and uninformed. Ministers in particular seem bewildered and unaware.

Funding arrangements (22-33)

Funding decisions should be made with strong input from cultural advisory body. A co-ordinated approach could be achieved with more cross-sectoral planning. It often baffles me that in Scotland, information between all sectors is not as shared as it might be.

It is important to support indigenous arts but they should also be judged on artistic merit.

Current methods of funding could be improved by creating better awareness of funding involved. In my experience you really have to look for and fight for funding. Finding the info is a minefield - applying for it even more so. The entire process seems prohibitively arduous and elusive.

Standards & Evaluation (34-38)

Governing bodies should be aware of how funding money is benefiting those who are awarded it and determine which areas require what types of funding most. Case studies should be monitored in a cause-and-effect kind of way.

Standards can be achieved by constant review, good communication and assessment.

If a body fails to get funding, they should be told why and given the opportunity to improve their services/pitch etc. In other words they should be given guidance to bring them up to standard. They should then be allowed time to improve and apply again.

Operations & Administration (39-43)

New technology is the driving force of any nation. It should always be a priority.

Better communication between individuals and groups, varying sectors and bodies will always result in better management.

IT development allocated to a single body will have the benefit of making then answerable to efficiency. On the other hand, this could work like privatisation in the railways, in that the body chosen is not efficient in itself.

In order to raise our profile as a country international, we must develop stronger ties with other nations and raise that profile both at home and abroad. We must also see ourselves as part of the UK as oppose to flying the Scottish flag too keenly - this gives a 'local' profile, rather like Norway in the European Song Contest. We are in danger of singling ourselves out to be a 'small nation'. The only reason that I am aware of many of the cultural links between Scotland and other nations is because I am a member of certain bodies. I read newspapers every day and these goings-on are not generally reflected.

In order that money should be spread to ensure monies are not overly spent on admin, we have to cut the admin down, For instance, this document itself is overly long, academic in tone and rather overwhelming. This is a perfect example of too much admin. It is not simple enough. Getting through it is a somewhat arduous task. Many things seem to be too laboured and admin heavy. Time limits should be imposed to implementing changes then penalties levied if not done in time.

Local Authorities (44-47)

Local authorities should be made aware of just how much cultural input effects community development both socially and economically. National standards should help see things improve. Ring sourcing for cultural provision is a good idea - as cultural pursuits are often seen as last on the list of priorities. Local authorities and govt should develop greater communication.

Regional Bodies (48-51)

Regional bodies should appoint a representative so that better communication develops between them and the governing group. However, this should be an advisory role only, to avoid more admin.

National (52-58)

'National' should mean to represent Scotland within the UK and abroad. National companies naturally require more funding to maintain standards and attract the best talent. National companies should report to cultural governing body, incorporating experts from their specific fields.

There should not be over-emphasis on Scottish work - this should be at discretion of the director of any national body. Anyone in that position should understand its importance anyway. If the body is to secure an international reputation, it should be broad-thinking.

Good communication between all sectors and bodies involved here is, again, key.

Cross-cutting (59-62)

We can effectively represent and promote Scottish culture by spending money on better standards of PR. PR companies should have a good knowledge and understanding of the cultural sector and work in conjunction with corporate PR. All cultural promoters should be more aware of what is going on. There should be better PR between the cultural sectors and the promoters to begin with.