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The letter was also amended and sent to Angus Robertson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture, at CabSecCEAC@gov.scot and Angus.Robertson.MSP@parliament.scot

Closure of Creative Scotland's Open Fund for Individuals

Dear [MSP],

I am writing to you, **the MSP for my constituency/ the Culture Secretary/ my regional MSP [delete as applicable]**, to ask for your support in securing ongoing funding for Creative Scotland. On 19 August 2024, Creative Scotland announced that they will [close the Open Fund for Individuals](#) for new applications on 30 August 2024 as a result of "the Scottish Government being unable to confirm release of £6.6m in Grant-in-Aid budget in the current financial year, 2024-25".

The Open Fund for Individuals is vital for small artists working across Scotland to develop their practice to a professional level. Creating and taking part in the arts comes with significant financial barriers: equipment, rehearsal costs, transport, and promotion. Without available funding, these obstacles limit how far artists can grow their practice and can stop people from disadvantaged backgrounds from participating in the cultural sector altogether, reducing the diversity of our creative industries to only those with the means to do so independently.

Funding not only supports a single artist, but spreads out across the sector as a whole, diversifying and enriching our culture from the ground up and serving as a beacon of hope to independent artists. Removing the Open Fund for Individuals will leave many independent artists with nowhere to go: being largely ineligible for Creative Scotland's other funds, such as those targeted at large organisations, and without the level of financial or professional stability to be eligible for longer-term funding programmes. The Fund is therefore vital for ensuring a diverse, accessible, sustainable, and financially equal cultural sector. The announcement that the Fund will be closed with only 12 days notice is a shock. Further, applications decided after this deadline will not be eligible to revise and reapply ([as was standard practice before](#)), leaving new and outstanding applications in a worse position because of an arbitrary deadline announced with no notice. This was confirmed in [an email](#) from Creative Scotland but is not currently set out in [the news piece announcing the Fund's closure](#).

Presumably, Creative Scotland have had to make this quick decision in order to brace for the worst in advance of the Scottish Government's Budget announcement in mid-September. As **my**

local MSP/ my regional MSP/ the Culture Secretary [delete as applicable], I ask that you raise this issue with urgency and ensure that funding is found to immediately reverse the decision to close the Open Fund for Individuals or, alternatively, that the Scottish Government's Budget ensures Creative Scotland's financial stability to reopen the Fund later this year. I would appreciate a reply setting out what action you will take on this matter.

Creative Scotland say they had planned "to apply £3m of the £6.6m budget to support the Open Fund for Individuals in 2024-25, alongside £3m of National Lottery income". Securing continued funding at this level must be the minimum commitment going forward.

Yours sincerely,

[Name, postcode]