**DRAFT BUDGET 2018-19 - CULTURE, TOURISM & EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MEDIA BRIEF**

Against the backdrop of the UK Government’s continued programme of austerity, we are doing all we can to protect Scotland’s culture and to ensure our diverse and world-class culture, heritage and tourism sectors continue to thrive.

**OVERALL PORTFOLIO SPEND**

The overall culture, tourism and external affairs budget will be £344.3 million in 2018-19. We have increased funding by almost £20 million.

* We will increase investment in Scotland’s culture by almost 10%, up to £166.8m
* We will increase funding for Creative Scotland, including £6.6 million to maintain support for the Regular Funding Programme as they face significant declines in UK National Lottery receipts.
* We will provide £10 million of funding for the new Screen Unit being established to bring screen development, production and growth funding to £20 million.
* We will continue to make a difference to some of the world’s poorest people with a £10 million International Development Fund and £1 million Humanitarian Emergency Fund, continuing our commitment to be a good global citizen.
* We will ensure the successful delivery of the Glasgow 2018 European Championships, bringing economic and cultural benefits to Scotland and building upon the legacy of the 2014 Commonwealth Games.
* We are protecting free entry to the National Galleries of Scotland, National Library of Scotland and National Museums Scotland and will provide additional funding for pay awards under the new public sector pay policy.
* We will continue to protect Scotland’s five National Performing Companies, maintaining their grant and the International Touring Fund at 2017-18 levels.
* We will provide an additional £2 million to the National Records of Scotland for the delivery of the 2021 Census and the full digitalisation of their records.
* We will maintain our support for non-national libraries through continued funding for the Scottish Library and Information Council of £655,000. As part of this funding, we will also invest £450,000 Public Library Improvement Fund to support innovative ways for people to use public libraries.
* We continue to invest £9 million in the Youth Music Initiative, giving around 225,000 young people in Scotland the chance to engage with the arts, boosting skills & educational attainment.
* We are increasing Historic Environment Scotland’s spending power and capital budget, allowing them to maintain their programme of investing in key infrastructure across Scotland – an integral part of our national identity and an essential driver for our tourism industry.
* We will continue to support the work of VisitScotland, providing £40 million to deliver high profile tourism marketing campaigns overseas and in the UK and a portfolio of national events that maximise tourism's contribution to the economy.
* We will invest £1.25 million to bring together all of our efforts, including those of SDI and VisitScotland, to present Scotland around the world as a country to visit, live, work, study and invest in.
* We have increased our External Affairs budget to support the delivery of our newest Innovation and Investment Hub in Paris and an enhanced presence in Canada, as set out in the 2017 Programme for Government.
* Our 2018 Year of Young People will aim to inspire Scotland through its young people, celebrating their achievements, valuing their contribution to our communities and creating new opportunities for them to shine locally, nationally and globally.