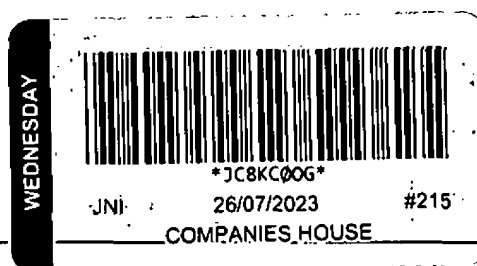


Northern Ireland Screen Commission
Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31st March 2023



Company Information

Directors at 31st March 2023

Sir David Sterling
Fionnuala Deane
Richard Hanna
Greg Maguire
Susan Picken
Mark Huffam
Brenda Romero
Róise Ní Bhaoill
Michael Fanning
Carmel Mullan
Peter Weil
Tom Gray

Secretary

Richard Williams

Company Number

NI 031997

Organisation Status

Northern Ireland Screen was classified by ONS as a Non-Departmental Public Body in January 2012 as per the Public Sector Classification Guide and the National Accounts Classification Decisions reports on the ONS website.

Registered Office

3rd Floor
Alfred House
21 Alfred Street
Belfast
BT2 8ED

Auditor

Comptroller and Auditor General
Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO)

Bankers

Danske Bank
First Floor
Donegall Square West
Belfast
BT1 6JS

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**Annual Report
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

**Strategic Report
For the year ended 31 March 2023**

Overview

History and statutory background

Northern Ireland Screen Commission (trading as Northern Ireland Screen) was established on 28 April 1997 as a direct result of recommendations made in the Edmund Review, which was commissioned by the Department of Education for Northern Ireland (DENI) and the Department of Economic Development (DED). It assumed the previous responsibilities of the Northern Ireland Film Council.

At the Statement of Financial Position date, the Department for the Economy (DfE) is the Government Sponsor Department for Northern Ireland Screen. The primary funders are DfE, the Department for Communities (DfC), the British Film Institute (BFI), as a conduit for the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media (TCAGSM) and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, as a Lottery distributor. The framework for these governance and funding arrangements is contained in the Management Statement and Financial Memorandum dated 23 May 2019.

Northern Ireland Screen is a company limited by guarantee, currently governed by a Board of 12 Directors and employing 47 permanent and temporary core staff. The organisation is the government-sponsored lead body in Northern Ireland for the film, television and digital content industry.

This report covers the first year of Northern Ireland Screen's *Stories, Skills and Sustainability 2022-2026*.

Review of business with Key Performance Indicators

Northern Ireland Screen is committed to maximising the economic, cultural and educational value of the screen industry for the benefit of Northern Ireland. This goal is pursued through our mission to accelerate the development of a dynamic and sustainable screen industry and culture in Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland Screen has 3 overarching objectives:

1. That Northern Ireland will have the strongest screen industry outside of London in the UK and Ireland;
2. That this industry will be supported by vibrant and diverse cultural voices that are recognised and celebrated equally at home and abroad; and
3. That the sector will be underpinned by the most successful screen and digital technologies education provision in Europe ensuring that the education is within reach and of value to the most socially disadvantaged.

**Annual Report
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

Stories, Skills and Sustainability 2022-2026 has been developed in line with the Department's 10X Strategy and its 3 key pillars of Innovation, Social Inclusion and Sustainability. To this end the Strategy concentrates on:

- A greatly increased focus on innovation, and particularly digital innovation;
- An 'across the board' elevation of the importance of greening our industry;
- An extensive uplift in focus on social inclusion within our skills development.

The most significant project to deliver on innovation is Studio Ulster. The Ulster University lead partnership with Belfast Harbour Studios supported by Northern Ireland Screen is the central plank of this innovation focus utilising the 10X identified technology Virtual Production. The Studio is due to open in Spring/Summer of 2024.

Northern Ireland Screen exceeded the key economic targets for Year 1 of the Strategy which puts us on a strong footing for the achievement of the overall targets for the strategy period. The sector approach introduced in the last Strategy has seen a steady stream of high-quality projects being supported during the financial year in each of the Sectors Large-Scale Production, Animation, Independent Film, Television Drama, Factual and Entertainment Television, Gaming, Irish Language and Ulster-Scots.

The inclusion of Archive into the DfC economic appraisal and subsequent funding has allowed us to plan a more integrated approach to the delivery of Northern Ireland Screen's cultural and educational supported activity. Covid did impact on our ability to delivery in the early part of the year but all KPIs have been met.

Going Concern

All liabilities will be met by future grant-in-aid, received from and approved annually by DfE. DfE core grant funding for 2023-24 has not yet been approved. Planned activities for 2023-24 have been formulated in light of the funding levels in the economic appraisal. Therefore, the agreed future financing of any Northern Ireland Screen liabilities is expected to be met by DfE.

The uncertainty as to the budget position is the largest consideration when determining going concern. The outcome of the budget allocation taking into account our commitments will be factored in. As such it is considered appropriate to adopt a going concern basis for the preparation of the financial statements as the DfE, sponsor department of Northern Ireland Screen, is supply financed. There is no reason to believe that the Department's future sponsorship and future Assembly approval will not be forthcoming to meet Northern Ireland Screen's liabilities as they fall due which includes any pension deficit.

In this context, the accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

**Annual Report
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

Performance Analysis

The purpose of the performance analysis is to provide an overview of our performance against targets set by the Board and how it has been delivered within the resources given to us.

Financial performance and position

Statement of Financial Position

Total current assets have decreased by £2.627m from £4.153m at 31 March 2022 to £1.525m at 31 March 2023.

The Statement of Financial Position shows a reduction in Total Taxpayers' Equity of £0.593m moving from a surplus of £0.749m to a surplus of £0.156m.

Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure

Total comprehensive income/expenditure has decreased from a surplus of £2.113m at 31 March 22 to a deficit of £0.576m at 31 March 23.

The total income for the year increased by £2.395m from £23.961m to £26.356m, is mainly as a result of the following movements;

- DfE income increased by £2.947m from £13.345m in 2021-22 to £16.292m in 2022-23
- CINES a new program operated for the entire financial year an increase of £0.604m
- The ILBF program has reverted back to historic baseline which was a reduction in income of c£0.78m

Total operating expenditure increased by £6.097m from £22.765m to £28.862m. This was primarily the result of the following movements;

- Salary costs within Northern Ireland Screen increased by £0.682m. This was primarily due to additional new posts created in 2022-23 for the CINES/Skills programs.
- Programme expenses increased by £5.189m from £20.370m to £25.559m. £1.6m expenditure was incurred in 2022-23 with no income to offset the cost due to timing of income receipted in 2021-22 and expenditure incurring in 2022-23. The remainder of the increase is proportionality in line with the increased income and £1.6m.

**Annual Report
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

Aims, Objectives and Future Plans

Northern Ireland Screen sets out its annual objectives within a Business Plan that contains targets for the various activities of the organisation. Performance against targets is measured continuously throughout the financial year, in formal end of quarter reports reviewed by the Senior Management Team, by the Northern Ireland Screen Board and by our sponsor department, the Department for the Economy.

Northern Ireland Screen exceeded its key economic targets associated with the first year of *Stories, Skills and Sustainability*. Skills has moved from strength to strength in the last strategy with more investment which is now one of our core themes. Likewise, the emphasis on sustainability, the introduction of Albert Certification and sustainability statements as part of the assessment process will further bring green issues to light.

DfE's 10X Next Steps for Implementation document was published in October 2022 following consultation on the 10X Performance Management Framework. From that Framework a number of high-level objectives across *Innovation, Inclusion and Sustainability* have been developed and Northern Ireland Screen, whose own Strategy closely aligns to 10X, has designed a number of actions to support those objectives.

Building work has begun at Giant's Park on the multi-million pound Belfast Region City Deal investment in Studio Ulster, a cutting edge virtual production studio. Developed by Ulster University in partnership with Belfast Harbour and supported by Northern Ireland Screen, Studio Ulster will be a unique, large-scale virtual production studio complex with world-class commercial stages, supported by an integrated R&D centre of excellence for real-time and virtual production.

Key Highlights

Large-Scale

The team behind *The Northman* picked up the Production Team of the Year Award at the Production Guild of Great Britain Awards.

The School for Good and Evil premiered in Belfast in October, ahead of it launching on Netflix, with Director Paul Feig and actor Demi Isaac-Oviawe in attendance. The premiere had a simultaneous Cinemagic screening delighting young film fans too. The film went down well with Netflix viewers across the globe reaching the number one slot worldwide.

Building work has begun at Giant's Park on the multi-million pound Belfast Region City Deal investment in Studio Ulster, a cutting edge virtual production studio. Developed by Ulster University in partnership with Belfast Harbour and supported by Northern Ireland Screen, Studio Ulster will be a unique, large-scale virtual production studio complex with world-class commercial stages, supported by an integrated R&D centre of excellence for real-time and virtual production.

Dungeons and Dragons premiered at South by Southwest in March in Austin, Texas. The film was released globally on 31st March, reviews have all been extremely positive.

Annual Report
for the year ended 31 March 2023

TV Drama

Audiences bid farewell to Lisa McGee's *Derry Girls* as the third and final series aired in UK and Ireland on Channel 4 in April and globally on Netflix in October. Along with Channel 4, we hosted a launch event in Derry with lots of familiar faces taking to the pink carpet. With guest appearances from the likes of Liam Neeson and a special hour-long finale the third series was a huge critical and ratings success. The comedy picked up two Broadcast Awards - Best Comedy Programme and Timeline TV Moment of the Year for Erin's monologue in the final episode.

It also picked up RTS Awards in March for Best Scripted Comedy and Best Comedy Writer for Lisa Magee. It has also been nominated for 2 IFTA Awards and 3 BAFTA TV Awards.

A special preview screening of Declan Lawn and Adam Patterson's *Blue Lights* was held in March ahead of its broadcast on BBC One on 27th March. A big hit with critics and audiences alike, the drama earned 5-star reviews from both The Guardian and The Daily Telegraph and lured in 2.8m (18.2%) viewers with its first episode.

After a hugely successful first series, *Hope Street* returned to Donaghadee to film a second series which subsequently aired on BBC NI, BBC One as well as Britbox in the US.

Conversations with Friends launched on BBC Three in May and received 7 IFTA nominations including Best Drama, Director (Drama) and Script (Drama).

The second series of Channel 5 drama *Dalgliesh* began filming in June. Local directors Andy and Ryan Tohill were back on board to direct a number of episodes with Strabane man Brendan Mullin (*Bad Day for the Cut*, *Boys from County Hell*) producing.

In July filming began in Northern Ireland on the return of the BBC's hit drama, *World on Fire*.

Thrilling new comedy horror *Wreck* aired on BBC Three and on iPlayer in October. All six episodes were directed and executive produced by local man Chris Baugh (*Boys from County Hell*) and produced by Chris Martin (*Good Vibrations*). A big hit with viewers, it was quickly recommissioned for a second series.

Children's/Animation

After witnessing one million views on BBC iPlayer in the UK *Nova Jones*, the children's comedy television show from Jam Media, secured a double recommission.

Paper Owl Films launched *Happy the Hoglet* in November 2022 ahead of it being broadcast on ITVBe's LittleBe and RTEjr.

Sixteen South's *Odo* was nominated for Best pre-school programme at the Broadcast Awards. Sixteen South launched its hilarious new comedy series *The Coop Troop* at Annecy Animation Festival in June.

Zodiak Kids' *Silverpoint* was nominated for 2 BAFTA Children and Young People Awards.

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2022 saw the introduction of an exciting new mixed media series, *Mimi's World* produced by Adastra Development with animation from Belfast based ALT Animation and TAUNT Studios

Independent Film

2022 was a standout year for the local documentary sector. *Nothing Compares*, the film charting Sinead O'Connor's phenomenal rise to worldwide fame, directed by local woman Kathryn Ferguson won Best Feature Documentary at the prestigious British Independent Film Awards and Kathryn also scooped the Best Debut Director – Feature Documentary award, an incredible accolade for a first-time Director. The film has received huge critical acclaim and a host of other award wins around the globe.

Declan McGrath's *Young Plato* won the IFTA for Best Documentary, was nominated for a Grierson Award, a British Independent Film Award, an IDA Documentary Award and won over audiences and critics alike when it was released in cinemas.

Lyra (Erica Starling Productions) won the Tim Hetherington Award at Sheffield DocFest and Best Documentary at Giffoni Film Festival in Italy.

New Talent Focus film *Mandrake* (Lynne Davison) was selected for the Galway Film Fleadh.

Ballywalter, written by Stacey Gregg, had its world premiere at the opening night of Belfast Film Festival in November. Directed by Prasanna Puwanarajah this bittersweet comedy drama sees Patrick Kielty in his first feature film role, alongside Seána Kerslake. Seana Kerlake has been nominated for an IFTA.

Fact/Ent

Afro-Mic Productions, one of the UKs fastest growing indies based in Belfast had a fantastic year with a nomination for 'Small Indie of The Year' at the 2022 Edinburgh Television Awards and secured a host of commissions. BBC daytime commissioned it to make *B&B By the Sea*, which sees celebs explore the north coast while based in a unique coastal hideaway on Downhill Beach. A BBC Three and BBC NI commission followed for *Made Up in Belfast*, a series following the lives of the charismatic young team behind a local cosmetic brand and BBC One commissioned *Mini Matchmakers*, a dating agency run by nine-year-olds.

Waddell Media's *The Hotel People* launched on BBC NI in late August.

Waddell Media's *Stitch Please!* aired on BBC Three and *The Hotel People* on BBC One NI. Tyrone Productions' *The Real Derry: Jamie-Lee O'Donnell* aired on Channel 4. Series 3 of Rare TV's *Mountain Vets* launched on BBC NI in mid-July.

Nice One productions and Fizz TV saw *Lightning*, the electrifying and nerve-wracking fast quiz show return for its second series while Hat Trick Productions returned to Northern Ireland with *Mastermind* marking 50 years of the nation's sharpest minds. 2023 will see Potato TV team up with Nice One Productions to bring a new BBC network daytime quiz *Finish Line* into production here.

More 4 NI Initiative projects: *Country House Auction* (Big Mountain) and *Tiny Islands* (Tern TV).

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Interactive

Hypixel were awarded £1m towards developing the final stages of their block-based fantasy world video game, *Hytale*, over the next three years. Developed in partnership with parent company, Riot Games, this is a significant step forward for the games sector.

Seven NI companies were supported to attend Gamescom in Cologne in August 2022.

Bellular Studios' release of *The Pale Beyond*, a polar exploration game set in an unforgiving frozen waste, developed through the Transfuzer and Platform schemes, attracted both critical acclaim and early players.

Local neuro-technology company INCISIV launched a virtual reality goalkeeping simulator called *Cleansheet* to the global market following consumer interest on TikTok translating into continued download success.

New & Emerging Talent

Five short films were selected to screen in competition at the Galway Film Fleadh in July: *VIVA*, directed by Marie Clare Cushinan, *HOME BIRD* directed by Caleb J Roberts, *AN IRISH GOODBYE* directed by Tom Berkeley & Ross White, *SOUL OFFICE* directed by Ryan Loughran and *CANDLELIGHT* directed by Scott Newton.

JAM Media's *Candlelight* is nominated for an IFTA for best Animated Short Film. The film came through our Creative Animation scheme.

An Irish Goodbye won a host of awards including an Academy Award for Best Live-Action Short Film and a BAFTA for Best British Short Film. The heart-warming short film has been captivating audiences around the world having already screened at over 60 film festivals across 6 continents.

1. *An Buachaill Gealgháireach*, Imagine Media's documentary on a song written by Brendan Behan which became a Greek anthem, won the Audience Award at the Thessaloniki International Film Festival in March and also enjoyed a special screening hosted by Irish president Michael D. Higgins at Áras an Uachtaráin.
2. Paper Owl Films' animated feature *Sol* won the best children's programme categories at both the Celtic Media Festival and the RTS NI awards.
3. Paula McIntyre side-stepped into TV sharing a mouth-watering selection of recipes to serve up to family and friends in Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund series *Paula McIntyre's Hamely Kitchen* from Clean Slate Productions.
4. Claire McCollum hosted DoubleBand Films' *A Stitch Through Time* where four local designers went head-to-head to create fashion pieces that best represented the heritage and influence of the Ulster-Scots pioneers that helped shape the global textiles industry.

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5. The **Moving Image Arts** awards returned for the first time in 3 years in November with over 600 of Northern Ireland's most creative young filmmakers and animators. The two-day event brought together GCSE, AS and A Level students across six categories to see their nominated work on the big screen.
6. Into Film has distributed over 7,000 copies of their **Story Builder** resource across 200 schools with 3,000 pupils involved in direct workshops. The resources are available at Key Stage 2 & 3 across Northern Ireland and its cross-curricular structure has been successfully delivered in classrooms as it not only supports literacy but give students an opportunity to enhance thinking skills and personal capabilities.

Annual Report
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Key Performance Indicators for Business Plan 2022-23 - Year 1 of Stories, Skills & Sustainability
2022-26

Screen Fund Production and Development	KPI 2022-26	Full Year	RAG STATUS
NI Screen Fund committed	£53,600,000		
Direct Spend	£431,000,000	£208,763,309	
RATIO	KPI 2022-23	KPI 2022-23	
Large-Scale Production	14.5:1	13:1	
Animation and Children's	7.0:1	7.9:1	
TV Drama	7.5:1	11.5:1	
Factual/Entertainment Television	6.0:1	5.1:1	
Independent Film/Feature Doc	2.6:1	3.5:1	
Interactive	5.0:1	5.6:1	
SKILLS	Total Participants	Total Participants	
Provide 155 placement/opportunities across our Company Placement, Craft & Technical, Stepping Up, Shadowing/mentoring, Aim High and Pixel Mill schemes	155	195	
(i) To provide up to 25 Skills bursary awards addressing the training needs of our creative industries (ii) To arrange a Market Trip for 10 x trainees (iii) To provide Bespoke & New Entrant Training for up to 40 participants (iv) To develop an Animation Night School providing modular style training for up to 12 individuals	87	152	
NI Crew on Productions	Percentages	Percentages	
60% of NI Crew on Large-Scale production	60	61	
40% of NI HoD on Large-Scale production	40	46	
75% of NI Crew on other production	75	84	
65% of NI HoD on other production	65	72	
New & Emerging Talent	Total Participants	Total Participants	

**Annual Report
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600 Individuals engaged with BFI Network directly through hub professional activity	600	365	
800 Individuals engaged with BFI Network through online development activity eg webinars	800	327	
3000 online engagements with New and Emerging Talent activities	3,000	5,459	
Education and Outreach	Total Participants	Total Participants	
1. Delivery of Creative Digital Technology Professional Learning Programme Training Units	2,970	3,865	
2. Extended Professional Learning Programmes for teachers			
3. Moving Image Arts related courses for teachers			
1 CLC Activity - All programmes	7,012	11,224	
2. Targeted CLC programmes for Youth and Community Leaders and Workers and young people			
3 Targeted CLC activity in areas of disadvantage (%)			
Delivery of film clubs in schools serving areas of poverty and social exclusion	198	245	
1. Delivery of the ScreenWorks programme for young people aged 14-19 across NI	715	387	
2 Provision of work experience opportunities			
3. Delivery of Screen Academies for young people aged 16-19 across NI			
4. Target schools located in the top 25% most deprived areas of Northern Ireland to ensure equality of opportunity.			
1. Provision of programme of festivals accessible by people across NI	165,000	142,742	
2. Target festival screening attendance from marginalised groupings	8,250	10,596	
ARCHIVE	Total Participants	Total Participants	
Provision of events and outreach activities that provide access to the digital film archive	4,950	6,264	
ILBF			
60 hours television content broadcast to 25,000+ people in NI Ireland	60	63 hours of TV, 15 hours of digital and 15 hours of audio content supported to date.	
Broad range of content supported to include digital/interactive and audio content			
100% of all programmes delivered to be broadcast	100	100	

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Implement recommendations, as agreed by the Board, from 2021 ILBF Evaluation	9	3	
8 Trainees - New Entrant Trainee Scheme with Local Production Companies and Northern Visions. Sep 21 - August 22, (6 TV, 2 Trainee Radio Producers placed with Raidió Fáilte)	8	8	
6 Trainees - New Entrant Trainee Scheme with Local Production Companies and Northern Visions. Sep 22 - Aug 23	6	6	
1 Trainee Editor supported at Imagine Media, to July 2022	1	1	
4 Trainee Aps and 2 Trainee Video Journalists and 1 Trainee Producer	7	7	
80% of all trainees to secure employment in the sector on completion of training scheme	80%	80%	
USBF			
Deliver 10 additional hours of Ulster-Scots programming	10	32.5	
Deliver 1 Ulster-Scots radio project	1	3	
Deliver 5 online projects	5	8	
Recruit 2 trainees by October 2022	3	3	
Broadcast 90% of programming within 9 months of delivery	90%	100%	
Reach a significant Northern Ireland audience, with an average per programme audience target of 40,000 people in Northern Ireland (target is an average across all the programming supported by the USBF applied to each 12-month period)	40,000	40,000	
Implement four key recommendations from the USBF Evaluation	100%	100%	

Northern Ireland Screen is set challenging targets across all of its core activities which it has met consistent with previous years. The Strategy targets are broadly set for each of the four years with the aim that all targets will be met at the end of the Strategy. This year within the Screen Fund two key target ratios were not met Largescale and Factual Entertainment although it is anticipated these will even out by year four. The BFI had set unrealistically high targets for what was the final year of the pandemic restrictions, these have been adjusted for 2023-24.

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Equality, Diversity and Social Inclusion

Northern Ireland Screen carries out its obligations under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (the Act) which places a statutory duty on public authorities, such as Northern Ireland Screen, to address inequalities and demonstrate a measurable positive impact on the lives of people experiencing inequalities. The Act states that each public body is required, in carrying out its functions relating to Northern Ireland, to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between:

- persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status and sexual orientation;
- between men and women generally;
- persons with a disability and persons without; and
- persons with dependants and persons without

Northern Ireland Screen is an equal opportunities employer. We encourage applications from all suitably qualified persons regardless of their sex; religious or similar philosophical belief; political opinion; race; age; sexual orientation; or, whether they are married or are in a civil partnership; or, whether they are disabled; or whether they have undergone, are undergoing or intend to undergo gender reassignment.

We monitor the application process for all recruitments to ensure that we are encouraging applications from as wide a range and diverse background as possible.

Northern Ireland Screen has a balanced workforce with the Senior Management Team reflecting this although we are cognisant that there are some under-represented groups which, should vacancies arise, will seek to address. Overall, the workforce remains representative of the census in Northern Ireland and we seek to ensure that any under-represented groups across the workforce and in specific areas are welcomed in the recruitment process.

This financial year saw the implementation of our Partnership with the BBC in the creation of the Creative Industries New Entrant Scheme (CINE). As part of its ongoing work to address COVID-19 impacts experienced by the Voluntary & Community, Sports, Arts, Heritage and Creative Industries sectors the Department for Communities in consultation with colleagues and sectoral bodies, designed an Employment and Skills Initiative grants-based scheme, aimed at funding the salaries and associated costs of new entry level employment opportunities in Not for Profit organisations for those of working age (18 years+) for these sectors that will seek to address unemployment and economic inactivity as well as attracting new talent. In addition, this scheme aims to provide funding for training and upskilling of existing employees in key roles within the affected sectors, thereby protecting jobs by incentivising staff to remain in and develop their career paths in these sectors. This initiative seeks to provide a holistic approach to the support of funded individuals within these sectors. It is anticipated the scheme will last for approximately 3 years with a budget of c£4m.

Target backgrounds are ethnicity, disability and social deprivation who have no previous experience in the creative arts sector particularly Film and TV.

CINE's outreach team have made connections with most of the major community and supporting agencies across Northern Ireland. Job centres and particularly employer advisors and job coaches, are connected and responsive to new opportunities. Partnerships have been forged with organisations such as GemsNI to deliver personal development workshops to their clients across Northern Ireland, with an emphasis on working within

**Annual Report
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

the creative sectors. 47 new entrant jobs have been created in 2022-23 and 137 people have received bespoke industry training. There are currently 827 people registered on the CINE database who are notified of all new opportunities.

Sustainability Report

During 22-23, we have been actively engaging with all forms of screen projects and stakeholders to discuss and develop practical solutions to sustainability that will move the screen industry away from the standard box ticking approach. Our primary focus has been on tackling our biggest carbon contributor, emissions generated from the industries continued dependency on fossil fuels. To achieve this, we are currently in the final stages of introducing Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) tanks to our 3 most active production sites, Belfast Harbour studios, Titanic Studios and Silverwood Business park, HVO will offer productions immediate reduction in carbon emissions by up to 90% without the need for widespread infrastructure investment. It will also give productions the ability to achieve their Albert certification without the need to spend heavily on carbon offsetting credits.

Due to the rural nature of much of Northern Ireland's Film and Television projects we cannot rely solely on the total electrification of our infrastructure, it will require a combined approach from several sustainability solutions. As we encourage the use of Albert to help us gather data and make productions aware of their impact, we have also been discussing sustainability options with many of the key suppliers to the local industry. This has resulted in the recent online launch of our Sustainability Suppliers list, which allows productions to source local solutions that will help them achieve their carbon reduction targets through advances in new technology.

Another key aspect of our strategy is to encourage the growth of a circular economy within the screen industry, to avoid the large quantities of materials, sets and props being disposed of at the end of a project, we now arrange the connection between a production in early prep with a production approaching its wrap period, reducing the costs of disposal for one and purchase costs of another, additionally we have also started to create mailing list for productions to inform charities or organisations who may also be interested in any remaining materials.

Later in the year our first sustainability training course will run, educating crew of all levels on sustainability for the screen industries and begin the early development of local Sustainability Managers.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The principal risks and uncertainties facing Northern Ireland Screen were identified as follows:

The Department for Communities full allocation was received after completion and approval of a multi-year economic appraisal which encompasses Archive. This largely has removed the risk of funding for that part of our work and enables a more fully integrated strategy.

As a development agency working in a dynamic and fast moving industrial sector, Northern Ireland Screen carries constant risk associated with delivering the outcomes outlined in our strategy; ensuring relatively stable demand for the freelance crew base that both supports and benefits from the screen industry in Northern Ireland and for

**Annual Report
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the supply chain companies involved in supporting particularly large-scale production including the 3 studio complexes; and ensuring an even cashflow profile year to year. This risk was well managed through the year.

Additional

Despite budget allocations remaining uncertain, Northern Ireland Screen has and will continue to pursue its strategic goals.

For details on how Northern Ireland Screen manages risk and uncertainties please see the Governance Statement.

Future Developments

Northern Ireland Screen continues to liaise with DfE and DfC on finalising budgets for the remainder of the Strategy period 2022-26.

Other

There was no non-financial information, to include social matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters, that need disclosure in this year's report.

All related party transactions are detailed on page 63/64, note 14.

Northern Ireland Screen will continue to buy more sustainable and efficient products and services with the aim of achieving the best long-term, overall value for money for society.



Richard Williams

20th June 2023

**Accountability Report
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

Corporate Governance Report

Directors' Report for the year ended 31 March 2023

Board Members are appointed by the Minister, and in the wider public interest, the Permanent Secretary may make appointments to the NI Screen Board. Appointments of Board Members will normally be for a period of three to five years, with the possibility of re-appointment up to a further four years. These appointments are made in accordance with the Code of Practice issued by the Commissioner of Public Appointments for Northern Ireland.

The Board shall be composed of a Chair and up to 12 members. A position of vice-chair is optional. The Board must have a total of 5 members present to achieve a quorum.

The Directors who served during the year are as follows:

Sir David Sterling Chair		
Brenda Romero	Michael Fanning	Mark Huffam
Greg Maguire	Róise Ní Bhaoill	Richard Hanna
Carmel Mullan	Susan Picken	Fionnuala Deane
	Peter Weil	Tom Gray

Richard Williams served as Chief Executive for the full year.

Conflicts of interest

There are no company directorships or other significant interests held by members of the management board which may conflict with their management responsibilities. Directors declare any interest in successful applications to Northern Ireland Screen and commercial relationships with Northern Ireland Screen (see note 14).

Personal data related incidents

There was one personal data related incident in the year. This incident was thoroughly investigated internally considering the risks to the individuals' involved. Steps were taken by Northern Ireland Screen to mitigate any potential detriment to the individuals involved and there was sufficient evidence that the breach had been contained. It was concluded that the incident was not a serious breach and did not require formal reporting to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

Payments to Suppliers

Northern Ireland Screen is required to comply with the British Standards for achieving good payment performance in Commercial Transactions (BS 7890) and the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 as amended and supplemented by the Late Payment of Commercial Debt Regulations 2002. DAO (DFP) 04/13 refer.

**Accountability Report
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The percentage of bills paid within these standards in 2022-23 is 68% (2021-22: 83%). The trade payable days at 31 March 2023 is less than 10 days.

Prior Year Adjustments

There were no prior period adjustments made for 2022-23.

Risk

The principal risks and uncertainties facing Northern Ireland Screen during the year are outlined in the Strategic Report. The management of risks and uncertainties is set out in the Governance Statement.

Disclosure of Information to Auditor

The Directors confirm that:

- a) So far as the Directors are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware; and
- b) They have taken all necessary steps as Directors in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

This confirmation is given and should be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of s.418 of the Companies Act 2006.

Pension arrangements

The company operated the NILGOSC (Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee) pension scheme from 1 April 2013. NILGOSC is a final salary contracted out occupational pension scheme. The pension costs charged in the financial statements represent the contributions payable by the company during the year. Northern Ireland Screen's share of the scheme recorded net pension liabilities at 31 March 2023 was £0.04m (31 March 2022: £1.562m).

The pension liabilities relate to the defined benefit scheme which is managed by the Pension Fund Committee of NILGOSC and the Directors of Northern Ireland Screen do not have any control in the management of this Fund.

The future financing of any Northern Ireland Screen liabilities is expected to be met by DfE.

Complaints Handling

Northern Ireland Screen operates a complaints handling procedure in order that a person or organisation can express dissatisfaction about an aspect of the service received from the organisation. Further details are available on the website.

In dealing with complaints, Northern Ireland Screen seeks to restore relationships as far as possible. It makes every effort to make it easy to voice concerns through handling complaints quickly and without undue fuss or

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bureaucracy. Complaints are handled confidentially, with fairness and objectivity, and the outcome is made known to the complainant. All complaints or comments received, and actions taken are monitored and retained including the speed with which they are actioned. Complaints are analysed to identify problem areas where action may be required in order to provide a better quality of service, and suggestions on how to improve services are welcomed.

Auditor's remuneration

See note 3 in the accounts for details of auditor's remuneration. There has been no other work carried out by the Northern Ireland Audit Office or the Comptroller and Auditor General on Northern Ireland Screen.



Richard Williams
20th June 2023

**Accountability Report
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

Statement of Directors' and Accounting Officer's Responsibilities

The Department for the Economy has directed Northern Ireland Screen Commission to prepare for each financial year a Statement of Accounts in the form and on the basis set out in the Accounts Direction. The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis and must give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of Northern Ireland Screen, of its income and expenditure, Statement of Financial Position and cash flows for the financial year.

In preparing the accounts, the Accounting Officer is required to comply with the requirements of the Government Financial Reporting Manual and in particular to:

- Observe the Accounts Direction issued by the Department for the Economy, including the relevant accounting and disclosure requirements, and apply suitable accounting policies on a consistent basis;
- Make judgements and estimates on a reasonable basis;
- Such internal controls as the Accounting Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error;
- State whether applicable accounting standards as set out in the Government Financial Reporting Manual have been followed, and disclose and explain any material departures in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis; and
- Confirm that the Annual Report and Accounts as a whole is fair, balanced and understandable and take personal responsibility for the Annual Report and Accounts and the judgements required for determining that it is fair, balanced and understandable.

The Accounting Officer of the Department for the Economy has designated the Chief Executive as the Accounting Officer of Northern Ireland Screen. The responsibilities of an Accounting Officer include responsibility for the propriety and regularity of the public finances for which the Accounting Officer is answerable, for keeping proper records and for safeguarding Northern Ireland Screen's assets, as set out in Managing Public Money Northern Ireland issued by the Department of Finance.

As Accounting Officer I have taken all the steps that I ought to have taken to make myself aware of any relevant audit information that Northern Ireland Screen's auditors are aware of that information. So far as I am aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the auditors are unaware.

**Accountability Report
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

Governance Statement

The Department for the Economy Permanent Secretary has delegated the CEO of Northern Ireland Screen as the Accounting Officer of Northern Ireland Screen. The responsibilities of an Accounting Officer, including responsibility for the propriety and regularity of the public finances for which the Accounting Officer is answerable, for keeping proper records and for safeguarding Northern Ireland Screen's assets, are set out in Managing Public Money NI issued by DoF. As the Accounting Officer, I have taken all the steps that I ought to have taken to make myself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that Northern Ireland Screen's auditors are aware of that information. So far as I am aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the auditors are unaware.

The Accounting Officer of Northern Ireland Screen has responsibility for maintaining a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of the policies, aims and objectives of Northern Ireland Screen, whilst safeguarding the public funds and the assets of Northern Ireland Screen, for which he is personally responsible, in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to him by the Board of Northern Ireland Screen and in Managing Public Money Northern Ireland. These systems have been in place for the full year with close monitoring particularly in relation to the pandemic.

The Accounting Officer has responsibility for risk management and this is carried out through a risk framework which is regularly reviewed by the Management Board and reported to the Board quarterly and to the Department twice per year through the Assurance Statement. This framework has been in place for the full financial year and regularly reviewed.

Northern Ireland Screen aims to manage risk at a reasonable level to achieve its policies, aims and objectives. As Accounting Officer, it is my responsibility to ensure that an appropriate risk management process is in place within the organisation to assist with the decision making process. The aim is not to eliminate all risk, but to *mitigate and manage risks through risk management strategies and policies*.

Northern Ireland Screen's Management Statement and Financial Memorandum with DfE was reviewed in May 2019 and more recently in preparation for the Partnership Agreement. They set out the relationship between DfE and Northern Ireland Screen and define the financial and administrative framework within which Northern Ireland Screen operates. Northern Ireland Screen's Financial Memorandum which should be read in conjunction with the Management Statement sets out the framework for the management and control of the finance of Northern Ireland Screen.

Compliance with Corporate Governance Best Practice

The publication, in April 2013, of "Corporate Governance in Central Government Departments: Code of Good Practice NI" and its requirement for an effective Board which provides leadership for the business, helping it to operate in a business-like manner, advising on strategic and operational issues affecting the performance of the organisation and its function to scrutinise and challenge organisational policies and performance, whilst not mandated for Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs), has been adopted in large part by Northern Ireland Screen with a view to identifying what measures can be taken to enhance current governance arrangements.

Northern Ireland Screen's compliance with "Corporate Governance in Central Government Departments: Code of Good Practice NI" was the subject of an internal audit review in 2013. The review examined Northern Ireland Screen's compliance with sections 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the Code which were deemed the most relevant to an NDPB.

**Accountability Report
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

Findings have since been actioned through the appointment of a co-opted member to the Audit and Risk Committee. A review of our Corporate Governance in 2021 recommended a refresh of all the Terms of Reference for each of the Committees and the development of a Schedule of Matters Reserved for the Board which were adopted in December 2021.

Functional Standards

DAO 5/21 mandated the use of Functional Standards across all Government Departments and ALBs. This standard sets expectations for the direction and management of functions across government, including management of functional standards, in order to:

- drive high performance and achieve excellent outcomes for the citizen
- ensure consistent and improving collaborative practices and culture across government organisations

Northern Ireland Screen has already clearly defined standards within the organisation which are interpreted through policies and procedures for example. The purpose of the organisation is clearly articulated in the Business Plan and Strategy and is underpinned with a culture of continuous improvement. We will through 2023-24 further map and document our work to the Functional Standards as described in DAO 05/21.

Governance Framework

The Accounting Officer of Northern Ireland Screen is responsible for ensuring that audit and risk management systems and internal controls are in place, and Northern Ireland Screen complies with all statutory and legal obligations. The Accounting Officer has responsibility to ensure that Northern Ireland Screen's Board and its Executive members adhere to the Management Statement and Financial Memorandum agreed between DfE and Northern Ireland Screen.

The Board, in its role of supporting the Accounting Officer, has corporate responsibility for ensuring that Northern Ireland Screen fulfils the aims and objectives set by DfE as approved by its Minister and for promoting the efficient, economic and effective use of staff and other resources.

Governance and sponsorship responsibility for Northern Ireland Screen lies with DfE. Northern Ireland Screen will continue to have a service provision relationship within the Department for Communities in relation to aspects of Northern Ireland Screen's activities that fall within DfC's policy responsibilities. However, the governance in relation to this funding is channelled through DfE.

The Board's role is to:

-
- establish the overall strategic direction of Northern Ireland Screen within the policy and resources framework determined by the sponsor Department and Minister;
 - constructively challenge Northern Ireland Screen's executive team in their planning, target setting and delivery of performance;
 - ensure that the sponsor Department and other funders are kept informed of any changes which are likely to impact on the strategic direction of Northern Ireland Screen or on the attainability of its targets, and determine the steps needed to deal with such changes;

**Accountability Report
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

- ensure that any statutory or administrative requirements for the use of public funds are complied with; that the Board operates within the limits of its statutory authority and any delegated authority agreed with the sponsor Department, and in accordance with any other conditions relating to the use of public funds; and that, in reaching decisions, the Board takes into account all relevant guidance issued by DoF and the sponsor Department;
- ensure that the Board receives and reviews regular financial information concerning the management of Northern Ireland Screen; is informed in a timely manner about any concerns about the activities of Northern Ireland Screen; and provides positive assurance to the sponsor Department that appropriate action has been taken on such concerns;
- demonstrate high standards of corporate governance at all times, including using the independent audit committee, to help the Board to address the key financial and other risks facing Northern Ireland Screen;
- appoint, with the sponsor Department's approval, a Chief Executive to Northern Ireland Screen and, in consultation with the sponsor Department, set performance objectives for the Chief Executive, *which give due weight to the proper management and use of public monies; and*
- to oversee and review the remuneration package for the Northern Ireland Screen's Chief Executive, in line with the relevant benchmarking to Northern Ireland Senior Civil Service employees.

**Governance Statement
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

Board Membership

Northern Ireland Screen is currently governed by a Board of twelve non-executive directors:

Sir David Sterling KCB – Chair
Greg Maguire
Fionnuala Deane
Róise Ní Bhaoill
Michael Fanning
Peter Weil

Susan Picken
Mark Huffam
Brenda Romero
Richard Hanna
Carmel Mullan
Tom Gray

Board Attendance in 2022-23:

	21.6.22	13.9.22	13.12.22	28.3.23
Sir David Sterling (Chair)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Greg Maguire	✓	x	✓	x
Michael Fanning	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fionnuala Deane	✓	✓	✓	✓
Susan Picken	x	x	✓	✓
Mark Huffam	x	x	x	x
Carmel Mullan	✓	✓	✓	✓
Róise Ní Bhaoill	x	✓	✓	✓
Richard Hanna	✓	✓	x	✓
Peter Weil	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tom Gray	✓	✓	✓	✓
Brenda Romero	x	✓	x	✓

The Board of Northern Ireland Screen is required to review its effectiveness annually. The latest review was completed in May 2021 and no issues were identified. As the Chair was appointed in February 2022, the next review has been scheduled for early in 2023-24 year.

In each year, the Chair of Northern Ireland Screen undertakes individual Board member appraisals, the results of which are submitted to Northern Ireland Screen's sponsor department, DfE.

Board members are required to complete Conflicts of Interest declarations annually and a Register of Interests is updated annually.

The quality of data is considered by Board members to be substantial. Papers distributed to the Board in advance of meetings include:

- Agenda
- Minutes from previous meeting

**Governance Statement
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

- Management accounts for period
- CEO report to the Board
- Corporate Risk Register
- Performance Indicator Report for period
- Committee Reports

Board members have sufficient opportunity to challenge the quality of papers issued to them.

Committees of the Board

Northern Ireland Screen's Board may determine that certain aspects of its powers and responsibilities will be exercised by Committees. The composition, terms of reference and reporting requirements of the Committees will be determined by the Board. The Board receives updates from each Committee Chair at the quarterly Board meetings.

Committees do not have decision making powers except in the case of the Heads of Department Committee, the Investment Committee, the Irish Language Broadcast Fund and Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund Investment Committees.

Audit and Risk Committee

The Board of Northern Ireland Screen has established an Audit and Risk Committee to support them in their responsibilities for issues of risk control and governance. The Committee consists of 3 non-executive Board members, 1 observer and 1 co-opted member in the current year and is tasked with reviewing the comprehensiveness of assurances in meeting the Board and Accounting Officer's assurance needs and reviewing the reliability and integrity of these assurances. The Committee Chair, following each meeting, reports to the Accounting Officer and Board summarising the business undertaken by the Committee and offers views and advice from the Committee on issues which they consider the Accounting Officer and Board should be taking action.

The Audit and Risk Committee prepares an annual report to support the preparation of the Governance Statement. The report details the membership of the Committee and their attendance at meetings throughout the year. It also lists members' declared conflicts of interest.

An overview of Committee business in the year covering the discharge of the Committee responsibilities, their remit on risk management and corporate governance and key actions is also included.

The Audit and Risk Committee will advise the Board and Accounting officer on:

- The strategic processes for risk, control and governance and the governance statement;
- Assurances relating to the management of risk and corporate governance requirements for the organisation;

**Governance Statement
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

- The annual financial statements with particular focus on changes in accounting policy, major areas of judgement, significant audit adjustments, going concern assumption, and compliance with accounting standards;
- Key contact for any "Raising Concerns".
- The issues identified within the *Report to those Charged with Governance* and the appropriateness of management's response;
- The nature and scope of the annual audit in advance (in discussion with NIAO if necessary) and any problems or reservations arising out of the audit with NIAO (in absence of management if required);
- The criteria set for selection and appointment of internal audit;
- The scope and effectiveness of internal audit's work including planning and operation of the work and the Internal Audit Annual Report;
- The appropriateness of the systems and procedures to promote efficiency, economy and effectiveness;
- Reports and DAOs from department, NIAO and other organisations;
- Anti-fraud policies, whistle-blowing processes, and arrangements for special investigations.

The Committee is authorised by the Board to investigate any activity within its terms of reference, to obtain any information it requires from any employee and to investigate any issues.

Audit and Risk Committee Attendance in 2022-23:

	7.6.22	8.11.22	6.12.22	21.3.23
Carmel Mullan (Chair)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Susan Picken	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tom Gray	✓	✓	x	x

Strategic Resources Committee

The primary purpose of the Strategic Resources Committee is to give assurance to the Board in the stewardship and propriety on the use of the organisation's resource, to ensure effective financial management, the implementation of HR Strategies and Policies and that any issues are reported to the Board in a timely manner.

The Strategic Resources Committee will:

- Review and recommend acceptance of the annual budget and Operating Plan and Financial Strategy;
- Review financial operating information including quarterly management accounts;
- Exercise a challenge function to the budget and planning assumptions;
- Review financial policies and procedures;
- Provide advice and guidance to the Board on estates, leasing, and insurance issues;
- Review policies relating to Human Resource issues;
- Ensure that the level and structure of Northern Ireland Screen staffing, including grading and numbers of staff, are appropriate to its functions and the requirements of efficiency, effectiveness and economy;
- Review of performance appraisal and staff development;
- Review performance of the organisation including reporting against Key Performance Indicators; Review of mid- term and final evaluations, and review of strategy appraisals;

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for the year ended 31 March 2023**

- The Committee may procure specialist ad hoc advice at the expense of the organisation subject to budgets agreed by the Board and in consultation with CEO and Chair.

The Strategic Resources Committee will also periodically review its own effectiveness and report the results of that review to the Board.

The Strategic Resources Committee will meet 4 times a year (additional meetings may be convened by the Chair as deemed necessary) and all meetings will normally be attended by both the Accounting Officer and Chief Operating Officer.

The Strategic Resources Committee will also periodically review its own effectiveness and report the results of that review to the Board.

Strategic Resources Committee attendance in 2022-23:

	17.6.22	13.9.22	6.12.22	21.3.23
Sir David Sterling (Chair)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Michael Fanning	✓	✓	✓	x
Vacant				

Investment Committee

Northern Ireland Screen has established a number of Investment Committees for its Screen Fund, Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund and Irish Language Broadcast Fund. All of these Committees will:

- Make decisions on applications of over £100k to the Northern Ireland Screen Fund in accordance with the published criteria.
- Agree and confirm the award amount and recommendations on contract conditions;
- Defer an application to another meeting if appropriate;
- Reject an application;
- Note all applications to the Screen Fund with a value of under £100k.
- Consider any additional or unusual risk or value associated with any applicant under consideration.

All decisions will be made based on Northern Ireland Screen's Criteria for Decision Making and relevant Guidelines.

These Committees have all functioned effectively throughout the year to March 2023 and have reported on their activities to the Board of Northern Ireland Screen at each quarterly Board meeting.

Investment Committee Attendance 2022-23:

**Governance Statement
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

	Peter Weil (Chair)	Greg Maguire	Michael Fanning	Susan Picken
29.4.22	✓	✓	✓	✓
15.6.22	✓	x	✓	✓
26.9.22	✓	✓	x	✓
24.10.22	✓	✓	✓	x
8.11.22	✓	✓	✓	✓
8.12.22	✓	✓	✓	✓
12.1.23	✓	✓	✓	✓
2.2.23	✓	x	✓	x
21.2.23	✓	✓	✓	✓

*Susan Picken and Greg Maguire provided comments to the Chair on the projects ahead of the meeting on 02.02.23

The Management Team of Northern Ireland Screen

The Chief Executive may delegate the day to day administration of his responsibilities to the Senior Management Team (SMT) in Northern Ireland Screen; this core team is comprised of the Chief Content Officer, the Chief Operating Officer and leads from sectors across the industry. The Chief Executive Officer is also the Accounting Officer.

The SMT will take responsibility for delivering objectives and managing the day-to-day performance of specified teams within Northern Ireland Screen. SMT members may deputise for the Chief Executive as and when appropriate. The SMT also assist in the development of Northern Ireland Screen's policy and strategy and they report regularly to the Board through the Chief Executive at regular Board meetings.

Business Planning

The Accounting Officer's responsibilities include ensuring that Northern Ireland Screen produces a 4-year strategy and an annual business plan within the timescales set by DfE. The organisation consults with DfE on the preparation of its corporate strategy.

The strategy relevant to this period was developed and launched in October 2022. The strategy sets out Northern Ireland Screen's key objectives and associated performance indicators and targets relating to the period of the strategy. Performance against this strategy is independently reviewed – the interim review will take place in 2024. A forecast of expenditure and income for the strategy period is included.

The Strategy covering the period 2022-26 received Casework Approval in September 2021.

**Governance Statement
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

The annual Business Plan is also prepared in consultation with DfE and is submitted to DfE for approval each year. The annual plan includes key targets and milestones for the year and is linked to budget information to facilitate resource allocation by DfE, DfC and other funders.

Quarterly Performance Indicator reports are now submitted to DfE and are discussed at departmental accountability meetings and at all Northern Ireland Screen Board meetings.

The annual Business Plan is available on Northern Ireland Screen's website.

Business cases and post project evaluations are completed.

Risk Management

Risk at Northern Ireland Screen is primarily handled by ensuring that those responsible, whether staff or Board members, are suitably qualified and experienced. This is critical in the management of investments in film and television production and development, where experience is the only tool that differentiates between viable and non-viable projects.

Northern Ireland Screen was issued a 'satisfactory' internal audit review of risk management during the financial year 2022-23.

Financial decisions are structured to separate responsibility as far as is possible in a relatively small organisation with a long-established structure of Investment Committees assessing proposed decisions laid out by appropriately qualified and experienced staff.

A system of risk management is maintained to inform the Board's decisions and all reputational risks to the organisation are drawn to the attention of the Chair and are properly managed.

Northern Ireland Screen's Risk Register outlines the key corporate risks facing Northern Ireland Screen as identified by its Senior Management Team. The Risk Register details management's assessment of the key risks by rating associated controls and actions required to minimise the risk occurring. The updated Risk Register is presented to the Audit and Risk Committee and to the Board at each meeting on a quarterly basis. Key risks identified at 31 March 2023 were:

- While greatly reduced, the Coronavirus pandemic continues to have an impact on screen production, primarily in relation to the additional cost of Covid precautions;
- Cost inflation across all aspect of the production process including crew rate inflation is a concern in relation to our ongoing competitiveness as an international production hub;
- The Irish Language Broadcast Fund and Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund have secured funding to March 2023 but require multi-annual commitments to be managed most efficiently;
- With a new strategy with stretching ambition and targets, the risk of the organisation not achieving against performance targets is constant;

**Governance Statement
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

- Particularly, it will be difficult to achieve our stated ambitions within Large-Scale Production without expansion of our film studio capacity. We have been working with Belfast Harbour on phase 2 at Harbour Studios to increase the available sound stages and continue to prioritise this infrastructure development;
- Successful alignment with 10x Vision is at risk from the delay in delivering Ulster University's virtual production centre of excellence 'Studio Ulster'.

The Accounting Officer of Northern Ireland Screen acknowledges, through the completion of the Bi-Annual Assurance Statement, responsibility for maintaining a sound system of internal governance which supports the achievement of Northern Ireland Screen's and DfE's policies, aims and objectives, whilst safeguarding the public funds and organisational assets for which he is personally responsible.

The Board Assurance Statement is completed by the CEO, Accounting Officer for Northern Ireland Screen, and submitted to DfE for review and comment. This document is designed to evidence the CEO's responsibility to manage risk to a reasonable level but is not designed to eliminate all risk to achieve policies, aims and objectives; therefore, it can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness.

The risk management process is integrated with normal management processes and informs the annual business planning cycle so as to link risk management and internal governance firmly with Northern Ireland Screen's ability to fulfil its business objectives.

Responsibility for overseeing and monitoring all risk has been delegated to the Accounting Officer. Through the management team he ensures that all staff and Board members have received training and guidance on risk.

Fraud Risk and Information Risk

To safeguard public resources and to raise staff awareness against the risk of fraud, Northern Ireland Screen has a Fraud Prevention policy and Fraud Response plan which are regularly reviewed and updated.

In 2022-23 there were no incidents of actual or suspected fraud.

Staff are aware of, and have received relevant training in respect of fraud, whistle-blowing and the requirements of the Bribery Act 2010. Refresher training in Fraud Risk was carried out in May 2019. All potential or alleged frauds will be reported to DfE and other appropriate bodies. A Fraud Risk Analysis is submitted to DfE annually.

For grant awards made by Northern Ireland Screen, there is an adequate system of grant sampling and verification of grant payments in place to detect fraud.

Appropriate arrangements are in place within Northern Ireland Screen to ensure that all data, including personal/sensitive data is held and used securely and whistle-blowers are protected. Northern Ireland Screen implemented GDPR European data legislation which was enforced in May 2018.

Governance and Accountability within Northern Ireland Screen

The greatest level of assurance that Northern Ireland Screen's governance processes are working effectively will be obtained through a fully embedded risk management process. The regular review and reporting of risks and

**Governance Statement
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

governance activity provides a second level of assurance. Reviews by internal and external audit provide an independent assurance that the processes are working effectively. Control mechanisms are in place to ensure that the risk to information is minimal.

The main procedures in place to monitor the effectiveness of the governance system are as follows:

- Regular meetings with the officials from DfE to consider both operational and strategic issues and matters relating to the system of internal governance;
- Bi-Annual Assurance Reports and an annual Fraud Risk Analysis;
- Northern Ireland Screen's Risk Management policy explains the organisation's underlying approach to risk management, and outlines the roles and responsibilities of the Board, Audit and Risk Committee, Strategic Resources Committee, the Senior Management Team and Internal and External Audit;
- Following best practice with regard to the procurement of goods and services;
- Regular reports by administrative staff on progress against principal financial targets and the projected financial outcome for the year, and progress reports by staff responsible for major funds;
- Detailed progress reports to the Audit and Risk Committee, the Strategic Resources Committee and the Board of Northern Ireland Screen at their regular meetings and the inclusion of performance measures and results against targets in the annual operating plan;
- Reports from the internal auditors to the Audit and Risk Committee on the system of internal governance for the year;
- Report to those charged with governance by NIAO on issues noting during the course of the audit relating to the financial statements, and provision of opinions by the Comptroller and Auditor General on whether the financial statements give a true and fair view of the affairs of the company and in all material respects the expenditure and income recorded in the financial statements have been applied to the purposes intended by the Assembly and the financial transactions recorded in the financial statements conform to the authorities which govern them;
- Periodic reviews of the Risk Register by the Chief Executive, Chief Operating Officer, Chief Content Officer and SMT, the Board, Audit and Risk Committee and internal auditors of Northern Ireland Screen. The principal risks to the achievement of the objectives of Northern Ireland Screen are identified and recorded in the risk register, together with the controls in place and any further controls required to manage the risk effectively, efficiently and economically. Reports on emerging issues and strategies to deal with any associated risks are made to the Department for the Economy, the Audit and Risk Committee and the Board at their regular meetings.

**Governance Statement
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

Sources of Assurance

Internal Audit is responsible for providing opinions regarding the adequacy and effectiveness of Northern Ireland Screen's system of internal governance. It adopts a classification system for the assurance achieved in each audit. This classification is based on guidelines issued by the Department of Finance on 26 July 2016, reference DAO (DOF) 07/16.

At the end of each financial year an Internal Audit Assurance Statement is issued to the Audit and Risk Committee of Northern Ireland Screen based on the systems audit work performed during the year. The following reviews were completed in the year:

<u>Internal Audit Review</u>	<u>Rating</u>
• Business Continuity	Satisfactory
• IT & GDPR Compliance	Satisfactory
• Risk Management	Satisfactory

The Internal Audit Annual Report shows an overall satisfactory level of assurance at the year end.

Northern Ireland Screen was classified by ONS as an NDPB in January 2012 as per the Public Sector Classification Guide and the National Accounts Classification Decisions reports on the ONS website.

External Audit

The External Audit of our Statutory Financial Statements is undertaken by the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO), in accordance with Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practice Board. This independent scrutiny of the Financial Statements against Government Audit Standards provides additional assurance in respect of financial regularity. The External Audit Strategy for 2022-23 and the Report to those charged with Governance (RTTCWG) for 2022-23 have been presented to the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee. As Accounting Officer, I can confirm that all recommendations included within the RTTCWG have been accepted and have been implemented or are currently being progressed.

Review of effectiveness of the System of Internal Governance

The Accounting Officer has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal governance. The review of the effectiveness of the system of internal governance is informed by the work of the internal auditors. The comments made by the external auditors in their management letter and other reports also inform this review. The Senior Management Team and senior staff have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal governance framework. A plan to address any weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place. This is overseen by the Audit and Risk Committee, Strategic Resources Committee and prescribed by the internal auditor.

The redrafted MSFM was adopted by Northern Ireland Screen's Board at its December 2018 meeting and subsequently updated and agreed by the Board in May 2019.

**Governance Statement
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

However, it should be emphasised that Northern Ireland Screen's area of work will always carry a higher than average risk profile. Northern Ireland Screen is in continuous discussion with relevant Government departments regarding the relatively complex funding and governance arrangements under which it operates.

Internal Governance Divergences 2022-23

Update on prior year control issues which continue to be considered as control issues

None

Identification of new control issues in current year

None

As Accounting Officer of Northern Ireland Screen, I am content that the public funds and organisational assets for which I am responsible are safeguarded and have been managed with propriety. The controls in place within the organisation support the achievement of Northern Ireland Screen's and the DfE Minister's policies, aims and objectives.



Richard Williams
20th June 2023

Remuneration and Staff Report

The Remuneration and Staff report sets out Northern Ireland Screen's remuneration policy for our Board Members and Chief Executive, reports on how that policy has been implemented and details the amounts awarded to Board Members and CEO. It also provides details on remuneration and staff that the Northern Ireland Assembly and others see as key to accountability.

The Northern Ireland Screen Board currently consists of a Chair and 11 members. The terms of office have been varied between 3 and 5 years to facilitate the retention of a sufficient level of experience. General Board members do not receive remuneration and are expected to attend Board and Committee meetings totalling approximately 16 days per annum.

The following sections provide details of the remuneration and pension interests of the Accounting Officer/Chief Executive and Board.

The Directors who served during the year are noted on page 17.

The Chief Executive is appointed by Northern Ireland Screen's Board of Directors and reports to the Board.

Formal grading methodologies such as Job Evaluation and Grading Support (JEGS) and Job Evaluation for Senior Posts (JESP) are employed to ensure that the post is correctly loaded and graded. The grading of the post is reviewed before the appointment of a new Chief Executive and periodically as determined by DfE or Northern Ireland Screen. Northern Ireland Screen liaises closely with DfE throughout this process. DfE provide advice and guidance as and when required. Northern Ireland Screen obtains DfE approval regarding the proposed remuneration and terms and conditions prior to publication of the advertisement for the position.

The Chief Executive, and Accounting Officer, Richard Williams, receives a salary for his employment and contributions to the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee (NILGOSC) defined benefit scheme.

Remuneration Policy

The pay remit for the Northern Ireland (NI) public sector, including senior civil servants (SCS) in the NICS, is approved by the Minister of Finance. In the absence of a minister, the permanent secretary confirmed the NICS pay award applicable to salaries from August 2022 onwards. A year end accrual was made in the 2022-23 accounts to provide for the employer costs of progression due to staff moving up the relevant scales.

Service Contracts

The Civil Service Commissioners (NI) Order 1999 requires Civil Service appointments to be made on merit on the basis of fair and open competition. The Recruitment Code published by the Civil Service Commissioners for Northern Ireland specifies the circumstances when appointments may be made otherwise. Unless otherwise stated, the officials covered by this report hold appointments that are open-ended. Early termination, other than for misconduct, would result in consideration of the individual receiving compensation as set out in the Civil Service Compensation Scheme. Further information about the work of the Civil Service Commissioners for Northern Ireland can be found at www.nicscommissioners.org

Remuneration and Staff report (subject to audit):

	2022-23 Salary (including pension contributions) £000	Employer contribution to NILGOSC scheme £000	Total £000	2021-22 Salary (including pension contributions) £000	Employer contribution to NILGOSC scheme £000	Total £000
Richard Williams Chief Executive	80-85	15-20	95-105	85-90	15-20	100-110
Sir David Sterling Chair	5-10	-	5-10	0-5*	-	0-5
Dame Rotha Johnston Chair	-	-	-	5-10**	-	5-10
Elaine Sperber Vice Chair	-	-	-	0-5	-	0-5

*Sir David Sterling served as chair for a 2 month period. The full year equivalent salary is £10,000.

** Dame Rotha Johnston served as chair for a 10 month period. The full year equivalent salary is £10,000.

Salary

'Salary' includes gross salary, overtime, reserved rights to London weighting or London allowances, recruitment and retention allowances; private office allowances and any other allowance to the extent that it is subject to UK taxation and any gratia payments.

Benefits in kind

The monetary value of benefits in kind covers any benefit provided by the employer and treated by HM Revenue and Customs as a taxable emolument. No benefits in kind were payable in 2022-23 (2021-22: Nil).

Bonuses

There were no bonuses accrued or paid in 2022-23 (2021-22: Nil).

Fair pay disclosure (subject to audit)

Reporting bodies are required to disclose the relationship between the remuneration of the highest-paid director in their organisation and the lower quartile, median and upper quartile remuneration of the organisation's workforce.

The banded remuneration of the highest-paid employee/Accounting Officer in the financial year 2022-23 was £80-£85k (2021-22: £85-90k) a decrease primarily due to delay in the pay remit being agreed. The highest paid Board Member, the Chair was £5-10k (2021-22: £5-10k).

The relationship between the mid-point of this band and the remuneration of the organisation's workforce is disclosed below;

	2022-23				2021-22	
	25 th percentile	Median	75 th percentile	25 th percentile	Median	75 th percentile
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Total remuneration	26,575	32,893	42,639	26,575	32,893	41,675
Pay ratio	3.1:1	2.5:1	2:1	3.3:1	2.6:1	2.1:1

Total remuneration includes salary, non-consolidated performance-related pay and benefits-in-kind. It does not include severance payments, employer pension contributions and the cash equivalent transfer value of pensions.

For 2022-23, the 25th percentile, median and 75th percentile remuneration values consisted solely of salary payments. In 2022-23, no employees received remuneration in excess of the highest paid director (2021-22: no employees). Remuneration ranged from £10,000 to £80-85k (2021-22: £19,815 to £85-90k)

There has been an overall reduction in the current financial year's pay ratios compared to the pay ratios of the previous financial year. The 25th percentile decreased by 0.2, median by 0.1 and 75th percentile by 0.1. These reductions are primarily attributable to the pay award re 2022-23 not being made in the financial year and thus impacted the pay and benefits of the entity's employees taken as a whole.

Had the pay award been paid in 2022-23 we believe the median pay ratio would have been consistent with the pay, reward and progression policies for the entity's employees taken as a whole.

Percentage Change in Remuneration (subject to audit)

Reporting bodies are also required to disclose the percentage change from the previous financial year in:

- salary and allowances; and
- performance pay and bonuses of the highest paid director and of their employees as a whole.

**2022-23 v
2021-22**

Percentage change for:	£
Average employee salary and allowances	2.2%
Highest paid director's salary and allowances	(3.8%)

Northern Ireland Screen Pensions

The company operated the NILGOSC pension scheme at the end of the year effective from 1 April 2013. This is a funded scheme which provides benefits on a "Career Average Revalued Earnings" basis at a normal retirement age of 65. Benefits accrue at the rate of 1/49th of pensionable salary for each year of service. In addition, a tax-free lump sum may be payable on retirement. Members pay contributions of between 3.25% and 8.5% of pensionable earnings.

The NILGOSC scheme is a multi-employer defined benefit scheme which provides members of participating employers with the benefits related to pay and services at rates which are defined under statutory regulations. To finance these benefits assets are accumulated in the scheme and are held separately from the assets of the employers. The scheme is funded by employers participating in the NILGOSC scheme who pay contributions at rates determined by an independent professionally qualified actuary on the basis of regular valuations using the project unit method.

	2022-23	2021-22
	£	£
Employer's Contribution	309,572	284,066

Pension Benefits (subject to audit)

	Accrued pension at pension age as at 31 March 2023 and related lump sum	Real increase in pension and related lump sum at pension age	CETV at 31 March 2022	CETV at 31 March 2023	Real increase in CETV
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Richard Williams <i>Chief Executive</i>	25 - 30 and no lump sum	(0 - 2.5) and no lump sum	337	372	(6.5)
Sir David Sterling	-	-	-	-	-
Rotha Johnston <i>Chair</i>	-	-	-	-	-
Elaine Sperber <i>(Vice Chair)</i>	-	-	-	-	-

Cash Equivalent Transfer Values

A Cash Equivalent Transfer Value (CETV) is the actuarially assessed capitalised value of the pension scheme benefits accrued by a member at a particular point in time. The benefits valued are the member's accrued benefits and any contingent spouse's pension payable from the scheme. A CETV is a payment made by a pension scheme or arrangement to secure pension benefits in another pension scheme or arrangement when the member leaves a scheme and chooses to transfer the benefits accrued in their former scheme.

The pension figures shown relate to the benefits that the individual has accrued as a consequence of their total membership of the pension scheme, not just their service in a senior capacity to which disclosure applies.

The CETV figures, and from 2003-04 the other pension details, include the value of any pension benefit in another scheme or arrangement which the individual has transferred to the pension arrangements. They also include any additional pension benefit accrued to the member as a result of their purchasing additional years of pension service in the scheme at their own cost. CETVs are calculated in accordance with The Occupational Pension Schemes (Transfer Values) (Amendment) Regulations and do not take account of any actual or potential benefits resulting from Lifetime Allowance Tax which may be due when pension benefits are taken.

Real increase in CETV

This reflects the increase in CETV effectively funded by the employer. It does not include the increase in accrued pension due to inflation, contributions paid by the employee (including the value of any benefits transferred from another pension scheme or arrangement) and uses common market valuation factors for the start and end of the period.

Exit Packages (subject to audit)

No directors of Northern Ireland Screen received any compensation for loss of office during the current or prior year.

Staff costs (subject to audit)

	Payroll Staff 2022-23	Agency Staff 2022-23	2022-23 Total	2021-22 Total
Administrative	£	£	£	£
Salaries	1,573,034	78,115	1,651,149	1,065,732
Social security costs	172,777	-	172,777	110,948
Other pension costs	309,573	-	309,573	196,812
Administrative Total Costs	<u>2,055,384</u>	<u>78,115</u>	<u>2,133,499</u>	<u>1,373,492</u>
Programme				
Salaries	2,074,978	-	2,074,978	1,716,873
Social security costs	169,936	-	169,936	301,142
Other pension costs	98,702	-	98,702	96,174
Programme Total Costs	<u>2,343,616</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,343,616</u>	<u>2,114,189</u>
Total Staff Costs	<u>4,399,000</u>	<u>78,115</u>	<u>4,477,115</u>	<u>3,487,681</u>

The average number of persons employed (subject to audit)

The average number of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) persons employed during the year was as follows:

Information on People	2022-2023			2021-2022		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Directors	1	-	1	-	2	2
Number of Permanent Employees*	17	30	47	6	19	25
Temporary staff / external secondees**	68	55	123	39	48	87
Total	86	85	171	45	69	114

*Core employees comprise the core workforce from Grade 5 to Grade AA.

**External secondees are defined as trainees employed by Northern Ireland Screen via the number of industry-related employability schemes offered.

Sickness absence

Annual sickness absence figures can be found in the "Sickness Absence in the Northern Ireland Civil Service 2021/22" report at Sickness Absence in the Northern Ireland Civil Service 2021/22 | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). For Northern Ireland Screen the sickness absence rate for the year 2022-23 was 4.1% (2021-22: 0.85%). This increase is primarily due long-term sickness of 2 full-time staff members during the year.

Staff Turnover

The staff turnover rate for the year 2022-23 was 51% (2021-22: 48.8%). The high turnover is primarily due to short-term contracts for trainees which typically range from 6 months to 24 months.

Staff Engagement

Northern Ireland Screen has established a Staff Engagement Committee which is comprised of staff across all disciplines and grades. The Committee provides recommendations for improvements to the Senior Management Team. A number of recommendations were accepted around health and welfare including support for Period Poverty in the organisation.

Employment, training and advancement of disabled persons

Northern Ireland Screen is committed to working towards creating a truly inclusive workplace where all colleagues feel valued. Northern Ireland Screen applies the recruitment principles as set out in the Recruitment Code of the Civil Service Commissioners for Northern Ireland, appointing candidates based on merit through fair and open competition. Mandatory training for recruitment and selection panel members includes raising awareness of unconscious bias. Unconscious bias training is available to all staff. Through CINE Northern Ireland Screen undertakes outreach activities to promote career opportunities to the disability sector.

Learning & Development

Northern Ireland Screen recognises the importance of having skilled and engaged employees and continues to invest in learning and development. Development and delivery of generic staff training generally through the Centre for Applied Learning Training is delivered using a variety of learning delivery channels (including on-line, webinars), providing flexible access to learning. Coherent learning pathways are aligned to both corporate need and the specific requirements of Northern Ireland Screen. Talent management is a key theme of our Strategy to deliver "Stories, Skills and Sustainability 2022-26" and this year the focus continued on promoting the importance of improving our awareness of disability and diversity issues. The DoF is responsible for the NICS Industrial Relations Policy.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

In Northern Ireland Screen, we are committed to building an inclusive workplace culture where diversity is truly valued at all levels, where you are valued for who you are and where you can bring your true self to work. We want to make use of all the talent that exists across the NICS to organisation. As a key element of the new Strategy, our ambitious diversity and inclusion programme of work is delivered largely through CINE and our Diversity Action Plan. The Plan sets out our priorities for action by diversity and inclusion theme, and includes supporting plans on communications and outreach. Equality is a cornerstone consideration in the development and review of all HR policies which determine how staff are recruited and appointed, their terms and conditions, how they are managed and developed, assessed, recognised and rewarded. Northern Ireland Screen continues to meet its statutory obligations under the Fair Employment & Treatment (NI) Order 1998, which includes submission of an annual Fair Employment Monitoring Return and a tri-annual Article 55 Review to the Equality Commission for NI (ECNI), both of which assess the composition of the workforce and the composition of applicants and appointees. Northern Ireland Screen uses the findings of all the equality monitoring and analysis to inform its programme of targeted outreach activity to address any areas of under-representation. As a public body, Northern Ireland Screen has due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity and regard to the desirability of promoting good relations across a range of categories outlined in the Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 in carrying out its functions.

Off-payroll payments and other matters

There were no off-payroll payments in year.

There were no disclosures required under:

- Health and safety at work;
- Trade union relationships;
- Human capital management such as career management and employability, pay policy etc.

According to our Equal Opportunity Statement of Policy, Northern Ireland Screen will provide equal opportunity for all job applicants and workers. All recruitment, promotion, training and receipt of any other benefit will be based upon an individual's ability and job performance and will exclude any consideration of an applicant's/worker's religious beliefs, political opinion, gender, sexual orientation, marital or civil partnership status, race, age, disability, having or not having dependants, trade union membership or non-membership or being a part time worker.

Northern Ireland Screen will not directly or indirectly discriminate on the grounds of religious belief or political opinion.

Northern Ireland Screen will continue to promote more sustainable and efficient products and services with the aim of achieving the best long-term, overall value for money for society.

Expenditure on consultancy

There was no expenditure on consultancy made during 2022-23 (2021-22: Nil)

Assembly Accountability and Audit Report: (these sections are subject to audit)

Remote contingent liabilities

Northern Ireland Screen received a legal challenge regarding an employment related claim. This is deemed as a remote contingent liability as a reasonable estimate cannot be quantified and the likelihood of probable outflow cannot be reliability measured (2021-22: £Nil).

Fees and charges

There were no fees and charges during 2022-23 (2021-22: Nil).

Regularity of expenditure.

All expenditure during 2022-23 has been in line with Managing Public Money NI (MPMNI).

Losses and special payments.

There were no losses 2022-23 (2021-22: Nil) and no special payment 2022-23 (2021-22 Nil).



Richard Williams
20th June 2023

NORTHERN IRELAND SCREEN COMMISSION

THE CERTIFICATE AND REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL TO THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY

Opinion on financial statements

I certify that I have audited the financial statements of the Northern Ireland Screen Commission for the year ended 31 March 2023 under the Companies (Public Sector Audit) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013. The financial statements comprise: the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure, the Statement of Financial Position, the Statement of Cash Flows, the Statement of Changes in Taxpayers' Equity and the related notes, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in the preparation of the Northern Ireland Screen Commission financial statements is applicable law and the UK adopted international accounting standards.

I have also audited the information in the Accountability Report that is described in that report as having been audited.

In my opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its net expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with UK adopted international accounting standards; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.

Opinion on regularity

In my opinion, in all material respects the expenditure and income recorded in the financial statements have been applied to the purposes intended by the Assembly and the financial transactions recorded in the financial statements conform to the authorities which govern them.

Basis for opinions

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs)(UK), applicable law and Practice Note 10 'Audit of Financial Statements and Regularity of Public Sector Bodies in the United Kingdom'. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of this certificate. My staff and I are independent of the Northern Ireland Screen Commission in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

I believe that the audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinions.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, I have concluded that the Northern Ireland Screen Commission's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the Northern Ireland Screen Commission work I have performed, I have not identified any material uncertainties that relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt about on the Northern Ireland Screen Commission's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

The going concern basis of accounting for the Northern Ireland Screen Commission is adopted in consideration of the requirements set out in the Government Reporting Manual, which require entities to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements where it anticipated that the services which they provide will continue into the future.

My responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors and Accounting Officer with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements, the parts of the Accountability Report described in that report as having been audited and my audit certificate and report. The directors and Accounting Officer are responsible for the other information included in the annual report. My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in my report, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

My responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If I identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, I am required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters

In my opinion:

- the parts of the Accountability Report to be audited have been properly prepared in accordance with the Government Financial Reporting Manual;
- the information given in the Performance Report and Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and

- the Performance Report and Directors' Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which I report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Northern Ireland Screen Commission and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, I have not identified material misstatements in the Performance Report and Directors' Report. I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters which I report to you if, in my opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements and the parts of the Accountability Report to be audited are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- certain disclosures of remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- I have not received all of the information and explanations I require for my audit; or
- the Governance Statement does not reflect compliance with the Department of Finance's guidance.

Responsibilities of the directors and Accounting Officer for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Directors and Accounting Officer Responsibilities, the directors and the Accounting Officer are responsible for:

- preparing the Annual Report, which includes the Directors' Remuneration Report, in accordance with the Companies Act 2006;
- the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view;
- such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and
- assessing the Northern Ireland Screen Commission's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Accounting Officer anticipates that the services provided by the Northern Ireland Screen Commission will not continue to be provided in the future.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My responsibility is to examine, certify and report on the financial statements in accordance with the Companies (Public Sector Audit) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013.

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error and to issue a certificate that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are

considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

I design procedures in line with my responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of non-compliance with laws and regulation, including fraud.

My procedures included:

- obtaining an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the Northern Ireland Screen Commission through discussion with management and application of extensive public sector accountability knowledge. The key laws and regulations I considered included the Companies Act 2006 and relevant tax laws;
- making enquires of management and those charged with governance on the *Northern Ireland Screen Commission's compliance with laws and regulations*;
- making enquiries of internal audit, management and those charged with governance as to susceptibility to irregularity and fraud, their assessment of the risk of material misstatement due to fraud and irregularity, and their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud and irregularity;
- completing risk assessment procedures to assess the susceptibility of the Northern Ireland Screen Commission's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur. This included, but was not limited to, an engagement director led engagement team discussion on fraud to identify particular areas, transaction streams and business practices that may be susceptible to material misstatement due to fraud. As part of this discussion, I identified potential for fraud in the following areas: revenue recognition, posting of unusual journals and unreasonable management estimates;
- engagement director oversight to ensure the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with the applicable legal and regulatory framework throughout the audit;
- documenting and evaluating the design and implementation of internal controls in place to mitigate risk of material misstatement due to fraud and non-compliance *with laws and regulations*;
- designing audit procedures to address specific laws and regulations which the engagement team considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements in terms of misstatement and irregularity, including fraud. These audit procedures included, but were not limited to, reading board and committee minutes, and agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation and approvals as appropriate;
- addressing the risk of fraud as a result of management override of controls by:
 - performing analytical procedures to identify unusual or unexpected relationships or movements;
 - testing journal entries to identify potential anomalies, and inappropriate or unauthorised adjustments;

- o assessing whether judgements and other assumptions made in determining accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- o investigating significant or unusual transactions made outside of the normal course of business; and

A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of my certificate.

In addition, I am required to obtain evidence sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the expenditure and income recorded in the financial statements have been applied to the purposes intended by the Assembly and the financial transactions recorded in the financial statements conform to the authorities which govern them.

Report

I have no observations to make on these financial statements.



Dorinnia Carville
Comptroller and Auditor General
Northern Ireland Audit Office
106 University Street
BELFAST
BT7 1EU

30 June 2023

**Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure
for the year ended 31st March 2023**

	Note	2023	2022
		£	£
Income			
Income from activities	4	26,248,298	23,889,410
Other income	4	108,000	72,000
		<u>26,356,298</u>	<u>23,961,410</u>
Expenditure			
Staff costs	5	(4,477,115)	(3,128,719)
Depreciation	5	(333,526)	(97,068)
Lease Interest Costs	5	(8,961)	-
Other expenditure	5	(827,023)	(924,726)
Programme expenses	6	<u>(23,215,593)</u>	<u>(18,614,965)</u>
		<u>(28,862,218)</u>	<u>(22,765,478)</u>
Net income/(expenditure) for the year		<u>(2,505,920)</u>	<u>1,195,932</u>
Other Comprehensive Net Expenditure			
Actuarial gain/loss	17	<u>1,930,000</u>	<u>917,000</u>
Total Comprehensive Income/ (expenditure) for the year		<u>(575,920)</u>	<u>2,112,932</u>

The notes on pages 52 to 74 form part of these financial statements.

**Statement of Financial Position
as at 31st March 2023**

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	8	859,273	206,031
Current assets			
Trade and other receivables	9	538,782	2,401,063
Cash and cash equivalents	10	<u>986,536</u>	<u>1,751,635</u>
Total current assets		1,525,318	4,152,698
Total assets		<u>2,384,591</u>	<u>4,358,729</u>
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	11	(1,771,567)	(1,872,836)
Provisions	19	(-)	(175,000)
Total current liabilities		<u>(1,771,567)</u>	<u>(2,047,836)</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>613,024</u>	<u>2,310,893</u>
Non-current liabilities			
Retirement benefit obligation	17	(35,000)	(1,562,000)
Lease liabilities non-current	11.1	<u>(422,491)</u>	-
Total non-current liabilities		<u>(457,491)</u>	<u>(1,562,000)</u>
Net assets/(liabilities)		<u>155,533</u>	<u>748,893</u>
Taxpayers' equity			
General fund		<u>155,533</u>	<u>748,893</u>
Total taxpayers' equity		<u>155,533</u>	<u>748,893</u>

The notes on pages 52 to 74 form part of these financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Government Financial Reporting Manual 2022-23 (FRM).

It is the view of the Board that an exemption from the audit requirements of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 is available under Section 482 of that Act, since the company meets the Department of Finance's definition of a non-profit making company and is subject to a public-sector audit under the Companies (Public Sector Audit) (Northern Ireland) Order 2013, being an order issued under Article 5(3) of the Audit and Accountability (Northern Ireland) Order 2003. The Board therefore claims this exemption. The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and preparation of accounts.

The financial statements on pages 48 to 74 were approved by the Board on date and were signed on its behalf by:

Carmel J. Mullan
CARMEL MULLAN, DIRECTOR
20th June 2023

**Statement of Cash Flows
for the year ended 31st March 2023**

	Note	2023	2022
		£	£
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net income/(expenditure) for the year		(2,506,547)	1,195,932
Adjustments for non-cash transactions:			
Depreciation	5	333,526	97,068
Adjustment for pension funding	17	403,000	427,000
Decrease in trade and other receivables	9	1,862,281	(1,568,239)
Increase in trade and other payables	11	(362,901)	843,080
Decrease in provision	19	<u>(175,000)</u>	<u>175,000</u>
Net cash inflow from operating activities		(445,641)	1,169,841
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	8	<u>(319,457)</u>	<u>(131,447)</u>
Net cash outflow from investing activities		<u>(319,457)</u>	<u>(131,447)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the period		<u>(765,098)</u>	1,038,394
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year	10	<u>1,751,635</u>	<u>713,241</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year	10	<u>986,536</u>	<u>1,751,635</u>

The notes on pages 52 to 74 form part of these financial statements.

Statement of Changes in Taxpayers' Equity

For the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	General fund £
Balance at 31st March 2021		<u>(1,364,039)</u>
Net Income (excluding auditors remuneration)		1,219,932
Auditors Remuneration		(24,000)
Actuarial Gain	17	<u>917,000</u>
Total changes in tax payer's equity for the year		<u>2,112,932</u>
 Balance at 31st March 2022		 <u>748,893</u>
 Balance at 31st March 2022		 <u>748,893</u>
Adjustment for implementation IFRS 16		(17,440)
Net Income/expenditure (excluding auditors remuneration)		(2,488,920)
Auditors Remuneration	17	(17,000)
Actuarial Gain		<u>1,930,000</u>
Total changes in tax payer's equity for the year		<u>(155,533)</u>
 Balance at 31st March 2023		 <u>155,533</u>

The notes on pages 52 to 74 form part of these financial statements.

1 Statement of accounting policies

Northern Ireland Screen was incorporated in the United Kingdom as a Private Limited Company by guarantee without share capital use of 'Limited' exemption. Registered office address is 3rd Floor, Alfred House, 21 Alfred Street, Belfast, BT2 8ED.

Principal activities include;

- Support the development of the screen industry in Northern Ireland including development and production funding, funding for training and the support of marketing activity;
- Development and support of the infrastructure underpinning the screen industry in Northern Ireland;
- Provide company development support initiatives for local production companies;
- Provide skills development/training for the industry;
- Provide support for the cultural aspects of the screen industry in Northern Ireland including audience development, screen festivals and cultural cinema;
- Support all aspects of preservation of and access to screen archive and audio-visual heritage; and
- Development of moving image and digital education provision.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the 2022-23 Government Financial Reporting Manual (FReM). The accounting policies contained in the FReM apply International Financial Reporting Standards as adapted or interpreted for the public-sector context. Where the FReM permits a choice of accounting policy, the accounting policy which is judged to be most appropriate to the particular circumstances of Northern Ireland Screen for the purpose of giving a true and fair view has been selected. See note 23 for additional disclosures required to comply with FReM.

Northern Ireland Screen have departed from FReM for non DfE and DfC funds which are accounted for under Government Grants. There is a departure from FReM recognising Grant in Aid income in the statement of comprehensive net expenditure instead of directly to the Statement of changes in tax payers equity to ensure compliance with the Companies Act 2006.

The particular policies adopted by Northern Ireland Screen for each income stream are described below in note 2 and have been applied consistently.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention to account for the revaluation of property, plant and equipment, intangible assets and certain financial assets and liabilities.

The Accounts are stated in sterling (£), which is the Northern Ireland Screen's functional and presentational currency and rounded to the nearest £1.

1.2 Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment are at valuation and deemed valuation is depreciated historical cost as proxy value as assets have a short useful life.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Computer equipment	33.3% reducing balance
Intangible Assets	33.3% straight line
Vehicles	33.3% straight line
TV and video equipment	25% reducing balance
Fixtures and fittings	25% reducing balance
Office equipment	25% reducing balance
Production Equipment	50% straight line/life of lease

Property Leases are depreciated based on the total number of months of the lease.

1.3 Programme Expenditure

Expenditure on film production is recognised on the basis of applications for payment or invoices received in the year, from funded projects. Any authorised recoupment must be reinvested in the fund within the financial year. Northern Ireland Screen does not retain ownership of the recoupment.

Programme expenditure are recognised once the conditions of the contract are made and there is an obligation from Northern Ireland Screen to make the payment for program expenses.

1.4 Pensions

The company was part of the NILGOSC (Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee) pension scheme, effective from 1st April 2013. NILGOSC is a final salary contracted out occupational pension scheme. The pension costs charged in the financial statements represent the contributions payable by the company during the year. The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of an independent qualified actuary using the market led approach. The last full actuarial valuation of the scheme occurred on 1st April 2016. The latest actuarial valuations of the scheme were at 31st March 2023.

Pension scheme assets are measured using the market value. Pension scheme liabilities are measured using the projected unit credit method and discounted at the current rate of return on a high-quality corporate bond of equivalent term to the liability. Actuarial gains and losses are recognised in Other Comprehensive Net Expenditure.

1.5 Critical accounting judgments and estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with IFRS requires the use of accounting estimates and assumptions. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying Northern Ireland Screen's accounting policies. Management continually evaluate their estimates, assumptions and judgements based on available information and experience. As the use of estimates is inherent in financial reporting, actual results could differ from these estimates. Key accounting estimates include accrued expenses, depreciation and pension liability.

1.6 IFRS 16 implementation

Northern Ireland Screen has adopted in 2022-23 IFRS 16 Leases. IFRS 16 represents a significant change in lessee accounting by largely removing the distinction between operating and finance leases and introducing a single lessee accounting model. A lessee is required to capitalise assets and liabilities for all leases, unless they qualify for low value or short-term exemptions. In addition, there are updated disclosure requirements.

Northern Ireland Screen has two property leases. One for its main Headquarters in Alfred House and the second in the Ormeau Baths, the Pixel Mill. The Alfred House lease runs until 2030 and the Pixel Mill until 2026.

1.7 Operating segments

IFRS 8 Operating Segments requires an entity to report financial and descriptive information about its reportable segments, which are operating segments or accumulations of operating segments. These are components about which separate financial information is available that is evaluated regularly by the chief operating decision maker in deciding how to allocate resources and in addressing performance. Due to the size and nature of Northern Ireland Screen, it is managed as a single segment, with all staff contributing to the organisation's overall performance. As such, performance is not disaggregated for evaluation by the chief operating decision maker and so performance has not been disaggregated by operating segment in these financial statements.

1.8 Accounting standards, interpretations and amendments to published Standards not yet effective

There were no new standards adopted in the year that would have a material impact on the accounts.

1.9 Financial instruments

As the cash requirements of Northern Ireland Screen are met through grants from DfE, DfC and other grant funding bodies, financial instruments play a more limited role in creating risk than would apply to a non-public body of a similar size. The majority of financial instruments relate to contracts to buy non-financial items in line with Northern Ireland Screen's expected purchase and usage requirements and therefore Northern Ireland Screen is exposed to little credit, liquidity or market risk.

Trade and other receivables

Financial assets within trade and other receivables are initially recognised at fair value, which is usually the original invoiced amount and subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method less provision for doubtful receivables. Provisions are made specifically where there is objective evidence of a dispute or inability to pay.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise of cash in hand and current balances with banks which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to insignificant risk of changes in value and have an original maturity of three months or less.

For the purposes of the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows, cash and cash equivalents are defined above net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

Trade and other payables

Financial liabilities within trade and other payables are initially recognised at fair value, which is usually the original invoiced amount and subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

1.10 Going concern

For the financial year 2023-24 DfE have issued a grant in aid (GiA) letter to the value of £16.626m. Northern Ireland Screen are content this meets all known future liabilities evidencing the anticipated continued provision of the services it provides and consider this sufficient to adopt the going concern principal.

2 Income Recognition

Northern Ireland Screen recognises income as follows;

Grant In Aid

Income received from DfE¹ and DfC² is recognised as Grant-in-aid which is provided to match the Northern Ireland Screens cash needs and is accounted for on a cash basis.

Grant Income

Grant income from funders DCMS³ for ILBF⁴ and USBF⁵, TCAGSM⁶, Lottery Arts Council and BFI⁷ are generally drawn down in advance to ensure prompt settlement of anticipated claims and expenditure. The expenditure may therefore not be incurred in the same accounting period that the funds are received. The directors consider that recognising income on a cash basis would result in the recognition of a surplus in the period of receipt, and a deficit when the related expenditure is incurred, which would not give a true and fair view of the underlying activities and performance for those periods.

Grants for revenue purposes are credited to deferred income and released to the statement of comprehensive net income/expenditure as the related expenditure is incurred.

Company Contribution Income

Income from companies where trainees are placed and the company bears 50% of the cost is treated as a vatable sale and the amounts are stated net of VAT. This revenue is recognised over the time the services are rendered on an agreed rate with the company. Company contribution income is included in the various funding income category.

Recoupment Income

In line with IFRS 15 income in relation to recoupment is included in the accounts at the point it becomes receivable. Recoupment is returns from conditional grants/investments made through the Screen Fund. This is not across all contracts and each contract will have their own express details on whether recoupment is applicable and the specified %. Due to the unpredictable nature of projects and whether they will be successful it is difficult to predict estimated recoupment income for a project. Recoupment income is recognised on receipt of a statement of account from the company or when the payment is received in the bank where no statement is provided. Northern Ireland Screen has the authority to retain up to £200,000 or with the approval of the Department can apply to retain in excess of this value in line with the MSFM.

¹ Department for The Economy

² Department for Communities

³ Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

⁴ Irish Language Broadcast Fund

⁵ Ulster Scots Broadcast Fund

⁶ Department for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

⁷ British Film Institute

3 Net expenditure for the year is stated after charging:

	2023 £	2022 £
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	333,526	97,068
Payments under operating leases	-	83,122
Fees payable to the company's auditor for the audit of the company's annual accounts	17,000	24,000

Note

Northern Ireland Screen's financial audit is carried out by the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General.

4 Income and Other income

	2023 £	2022 £
Funding Income		
Department for Communities	1,871,000	2,401,000
Department for the Economy	16,292,000	13,345,000
Recoupment	466,181	673,967
Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) ILBF	3,150,440	3,930,201
TCAGSM	845,166	847,457
DCMS – BFI – USBF	1,867,102	1,521,470
BFI	214,443	164,819
Arts Council	244,052	244,292
CINES	604,141	-
Various funding Income	<u>693,773</u>	<u>761,204</u>
	<u>26,248,298</u>	<u>23,889,410</u>

	2023 £	2022 £
Other Income		
Pension-Interest	<u>108,000</u>	<u>72,000</u>

Total income	<u>26,356,298</u>	<u>23,961,410</u>
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5 Administrative expenses

	2023	2022
	£	£
Staff Costs	<u>4,477,115</u>	<u>3,128,719</u>
<i>Other expenditure</i>		
Premises Expenses	85,939	142,844
Office Overheads	43,428	92,510
Pension – Interest Expense	146,000	112,000
Pension – Service Cost	365,000	387,000
Professional Fees	57,926	146,174
Staff and Board Expenses	<u>128,730</u>	<u>44,198</u>
	<u>827,023</u>	<u>924,726</u>
Depreciation	<u>333,526</u>	<u>97,068</u>
Lease Interest Costs	<u>8,961</u>	-

6 Programme expenses

	2023	2022
	£	£
Northern Ireland Screen Fund	13,931,702	8,878,203
Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund	1,824,996	1,431,092
Skills development	147,788	70,613
Irish Language Broadcast Fund	3,647,494	4,758,946
Department for Communities	1,959,525	2,440,168
Lottery Film Funding Programme	250,953	219,292
Development Activity	30,148	40,901
Production legal fees	192,389	71,679
Marketing and information	583,733	350,303
CINES	461,403	-
BFI – Heritage	-	13,622
British Film Institute Academy	154,064	152,187
PRONI	30,426	112,232
Broadcasting Association Ireland	<u>972</u>	<u>75,727</u>
	<u>23,215,593</u>	<u>18,614,965</u>

7 Staff Costs

	Payroll Staff 2022-23	Agency Staff 2022-23	2022-23 Total	2021-22 Total
	£	£	£	£
Administrative				
Salaries	1,573,034	78,115	1,651,149	1,065,732
Social security costs	172,777	-	172,777	110,948
Other pension costs	309,573	-	309,573	196,812
Administrative Total Costs	<u>2,055,384</u>	<u>78,115</u>	<u>2,133,499</u>	<u>1,373,492</u>
Programme				
Salaries	2,074,978	-	2,074,978	1,716,873
Social security costs	169,936	-	169,936	301,142
Other pension costs	98,702	-	98,702	96,174
Programme Total Costs	<u>2,343,616</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,343,616</u>	<u>2,114,189</u>
Total Staff Costs	<u>4,399,000</u>	<u>78,115</u>	<u>4,477,115</u>	<u>3,487,681</u>

8 Property, Plant and Equipment**2022-23**

Property, Plant and Equipment Schedule	Production Vehicle (£)	Fixtures & Fittings (£)	Office Equipment (£)	Computer / TV Equipment (£)	Production Equipment (£)	Intangible Assets (£)	HVO Tanks (£)	Pixel Mill Property Leases (£)*	Alfred House Property Lease (£)*	Totals (£)
Cost										
As at 01 April 2022	18,576	154,377	40,453	332,842	215,896	28,800	-	-	-	790,944
Additions	-	-	1,747	37,408	-	-	21,760	1,451,162	287,621	1,799,698
As at 31 Mar 2023	18,576	154,377	42,200	370,250	215,896	28,800	21,760	1,451,162	287,621	2,590,642
Accumulated Depreciation										
As at 01 April 2022	18,576	92,477	40,345	208,114	215,896	9,504	-	685,714	127,213	1,397,839
Charge for Year	-	15,475	464	53,483	-	6,368	-	191,362	66,374	333,526
As at 31 Mar 2023	18,576	107,952	40,809	261,597	215,896	15,872	-	877,076	193,591	1,731,369
Net Book Value										
As at 31 Mar 2023	-	46,425	1,391	108,653	-	12,928	21,760	574,086	94,030	859,273
As at 31 Mar 2022	-	61,900	108	124,728	-	19,296	-	-	-	206,031

*The value of the leases has been calculated in line with the adoption of IFRS 16 and used an NPV for valuation purposes.

2021-22

Property, Plant and Equipment Schedule	Production Vehicle (£)	Fixtures & Fittings (£)	Office Equipment (£)	Computer / TV Equipment (£)	Production Equipment (£)	Intangible Assets (£)	Totals (£)
Cost							
As at 01 April 2021	18,576	152,679	40,453	231,893	215,896	-	659,497
Additions	-	1,698	-	100,949	-	28,800	131,447
As at 31 Mar 2022	18,576	154,377	40,453	332,842	215,896	28,800	790,944
Accumulated Depreciation							
As at 01 April 2021	13,069	71,846	40,309	146,725	215,896	-	487,845
Charge for Year	5,507	20,632	36	61,389	-	9,504	97,068
As at 31 Mar 2022	18,576	92,477	40,345	208,114	215,896	9,504	584,913
Net Book Value							
As at 31 Mar 2022	-	61,900	108	124,728	-	19,296	206,031
As at 31 Mar 2021	5,507	80,834	144	85,168	-	-	171,652

9 Trade and other receivables

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade receivables	312,294	164,458
Other Debtors	120,409	2,194,805
Grants receivable	32	32
Prepayments	<u>106,047</u>	<u>41,768</u>
	<u>538,782</u>	<u>2,401,063</u>

10 Cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £
At 1 st April	1,751,635	713,241
Net change in cash and cash equivalent balances	<u>(765,099)</u>	<u>1,038,394</u>
At 31 st March	<u>986,536</u>	<u>1,751,635</u>
	2023 £	2022 £
Represented by:		
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>986,536</u>	<u>1,751,635</u>

Northern Ireland Screen is responsible for distributing Lottery funds under the Lottery Film Funding Programme. Cash and cash equivalents include a balance of funds held by the company for distribution under this programme. As at 31st March 2023 the balance held was £65,550 (2021-22: £59,792). The movement in the Lottery Film Funding Programme is summarised in note 12.

11 Trade and other payables

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	514,958	140,340
Accruals	737,090	737,617
Deferred Income	-	829,102
Deferred Income – Lottery funds (Note 12)	65,550	59,792
Other tax and social security	187,468	99,129
Other Creditors	4,869	6,856
Lease liability (Current)	<u>261,632</u>	-
	<u>1,771,567</u>	<u>1,872,836</u>

11.1 Non-Current Liabilities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Lease Liability (Non-Current)	422,491	-

12 Lottery funds (National Lottery Film Funding Programme)

Northern Ireland Screen is responsible for distributing Lottery funds under the National Lottery Film Funding Programme. A summary of the movement in these funds is shown below.

	2023	2022
	£	£
Funds held at start of year	59,792	70,136
Lottery funds received during the year	249,811	233,948
Awards paid	(240,073)	(211,942)
Administration costs/Legal Fees	<u>(3,980)</u>	<u>(32,350)</u>
Funds held at end of year	<u>65,550</u>	<u>59,792</u>

13 Commitments Under Finance leases**2022-23**

	Buildings (£)	Total (£)
Right-of-use assets		
As at 1 April 2022*	1,738,783	1,738,783
Depreciation Expense	<u>(1,070,667)</u>	<u>(1,070,667)</u>
As 31 March 2023	<u>668,116</u>	<u>668,116</u>

*Northern Ireland Screen adopted IFRS 16 on 1 April 2022 which represented a significant change in lessee accounting by removing the distinction between operating and finance leases and introducing a single lessee accounting model.

2021-22

	Buildings	Other	Total
	(£)	(£)	(£)
Right-of-use assets			
As at 1 April 2021	279,333	3,036	282,369
Depreciation Expense	-	-	-
As 31 March 2022	<u>279,333</u>	<u>3,036</u>	<u>282,369</u>

	2022-23 (£)	2021-22 (£)
Buildings		
Not later than one year	261,070	81,756
Later than one year and not later than five years	405,594	197,577
Later than five years	-	-
Less interest element	(12,395)	-
Present Value of obligations	654,269	279,333
	2022-23 (£)	2021-22 (£)
Other		
Not later than one year	3,036	3,036
Later than one year and not later than five years	-	-
Later than five years	-	-
Less interest element	(3,036)	-
Present Value of obligations	-	3,036

14 Related party transactions-

Northern Ireland Screen is a Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB) sponsored by the Department for the Economy (DfE). DfE is regarded as a related party. During the year, Northern Ireland Screen Commission had various material transactions with the Department (see note 4).

Directors and key management personnel also declare any interests in successful applications to the Commission and commercial relationships with the Commission.

The following payments were made by Northern Ireland Screen to related party organisations.

Organisation	Name	Relationship to Recipient organisation	2022-23 £	2021-22 £
Dog Ears Ltd	Fionnuala Deane	Director	21,502	40,090
DECSM Ltd	Fionnuala Deane	Director	214,891	-
Cathedral Quarter Trust	Susan Picken	Director	18,000	15,000
Below the Radar	Michael Fanning	Director	659,774	1,125,793
Puffin Rock Ltd	Fionnuala Deane	Director	18,100	18,100
New Regency Productions	Mark Huffam	Director	-	190,000
VRNI Ltd	Tom Gray	Director	10,900	-
		Total	943,167	1,388,983

The above directors and key management personnel were excluded from decision making in applications made from organisations where a related party relationship existed.

The following payments were made to Northern Ireland Screen from related party organisations.

Organisation	Name	Relationship to Recipient organisation	2022-23 £	2021-22 £
Humain Ltd	Greg Maguire	Director	83,318	56,802
Dog Ears Ltd	Fionnuala Deane	Director	22,431	-
		Total	105,749	56,802

There were no amounts due from or due to the directors or any other related parties as at 31st March 2023 (31st March 2022: Nil)

15 Film award payments

The company made the following film award payments during the year:

	2023 £	2022 £
Lottery	246,973	211,942
Irish Language Broadcast Fund	3,124,395	3,892,603
Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund	1,725,015	1,297,626
Northern Ireland Screen Fund	<u>13,931,702</u>	<u>8,869,203</u>
	<u>19,028,085</u>	<u>14,271,374</u>

16 Production awards contracted

	Unpaid Contracts as at 01st April 22	Contracts Awarded In Year	Less De- Committed	Contract Payments in Year	Unpaid Contracts as at 31st March 23
	£	£	£	£	£
Lottery 2014-2017	6,700	-	(6,700)	-	-
Lottery	153,798	271,467	(18,750)	(246,973)	159,542
Northern Ireland Screen Fund	3,290,834	20,347,447	(132,750)	(13,931,702)	9,573,829
Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund	1,361,234	965,092	-	(1,725,015)	601,311
Irish Language Broadcast Fund	2,547,459	3,200,390	(448,232)	(3,124,395)	2,175,222
	<u>7,360,025</u>	<u>24,784,396</u>	<u>(606,432)</u>	<u>(19,028,085)</u>	<u>12,509,904</u>

Northern Ireland Screen is responsible for distributing Lottery funds under the Lottery Film Funding Programme. The programme is summarised in note 12. The Irish Language Broadcast Fund and the Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund are funded during the year by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) through BFI.

17 Retirement benefit obligation

NILGOSC (Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee) pension scheme was introduced at the end of the 2014 year effective from 1st April 2013. NILGOSC is a final salary contracted out occupational pension scheme. Northern Ireland Screen makes employer contributions to NILGOSC which is a funded scheme of the defined benefit type. The fund is invested in suitable investments, managed by the Committee. For 2023, the contribution rates were 19.5% for employers and ranging between 3.25% and 8.5% for employees.

Results under IAS 19 can change dramatically depending on market conditions. The defined benefit obligation is linked to yields on AA-rated corporate bonds, while a significant proportion of the assets of the scheme are invested in equities. Changing markets in conjunction with discount rate volatility will lead to volatility in the funded status of the employer's balance sheet and In Other Comprehensive Income (OCI). It will also lead to volatility in the IAS 19 pension expense in the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure.

The disclosures below relate to the funded liabilities within the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Fund ("the Fund") which is part of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Northern Ireland) (the "LGPS"). The funded nature of the LGPS requires the employer and its employees to pay contributions into the Fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the retirement benefit obligation with investment assets. The Fund Administering Authority, Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee is responsible for the governance of the Fund.

The employer's regular contributions to the Fund for the accounting period ending 31st March 2023 are estimated to be £0.304m (2022 £0.214m).

Additional contributions may also become due in respect of any employer discretions to enhance members' benefits in the Fund over the next accounting period.

Results under IAS 19 (LGPS funded benefits)

Key Assumptions

The latest full valuation of the Employer's LGPS funded benefits took place as at 31st March 2023. Liabilities have been estimated by the independent, qualified actuary on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method. The principal assumptions used by the actuary in updating the latest valuation of the employer's position for IAS 19 purposes were:

	31 st March 2023 % p.a.	31 st March 2022 % p.a.
Discount rate	4.5	2.7
CPI Inflation	2.6	2.8
Pension increases	2.6	2.8
Pension accounts revaluation rate	2.6	2.8
Salary increases	4.1	4.3

Mortality assumptions

The mortality assumptions are based on actual mortality experience of members within the Fund based on analysis carried out as part of the 2022 Actuarial Valuation, and allow for expected future mortality improvements. Samples of life expectancy at age 65 in normal health resulting from these mortality assumptions are shown below.

	31 st March 2023	31 st March 2022
Males		
Member aged 65 at accounting date	22.2	21.8
Member aged 45 at accounting date	23.2	23.2
Females		
Member aged 65 at accounting date	25.0	25.0
Member aged 45 at accounting date	26.0	26.4

Asset allocation

			Value at 31 March 2023	Value at 31 March 2022
	Quoted %	Unquoted %	Total %	Total %
Equities	39.9	0.1	40.0	42.9
Property	-	11.2	11.2	10.0
Government bonds	20.6	-	20.6	24.7
Corporate bonds	3.0	-	3.0	2.2
Multi Asset Credit	13.3	-	13.3	13.1

Cash	6.5	-	6.5	4.0
Other	0.6	4.8	5.4	3.1
Total	83.9%	16.1%	100%	100%

Reconciliation of funded status to Statement of Financial Position

	Value as at 31 March 2023 £M	Value as at 31 March 2022 £M
Fair value of assets	3.980	3.805
Present value of funded defined benefit obligation	4.015	5.367
Funded status	(0.035)	(1.562)
Unrecognised asset	-	-
Liability recognised on the statement of financial position	(0.035)	(1.562)

The split of the liabilities at the last valuation between the various categories of members is as follows:

Active members	83%
Deferred pensioners	12%
Pensioners	5%

Breakdown of amounts recognised in statement of comprehensive net expenditure

	Period Ending 31 March 2023 (£M)	Year ended 31 March 2022 (£M)
Operating cost		
Current service cost	0.669	0.620
Past service cost (incl. curtailments)	-	-
Settlement cost	-	-
Financing cost		
Net interest on net defined benefit liability/(asset)	0.038	0.040
Pension expense recognised in profit and loss	0.707	0.660
Remeasurements in OCI		
Return on plan assets (in excess of)/below that recognised in net interest	0.326	(0.181)
Actuarial losses/(gains) due to changes in financial assumptions	(2.722)	(0.698)
Actuarial results/ (gains) due to changes in demographic assumptions	0.015	(0.054)
Actuarial (gains)/losses due to liability experience	0.451	0.016
Total amount recognised in OCI	(1.930)	(0.917)
Total amount recognised	(1.223)	(0.257)

Allowance for administration expenses included in Current Service Cost (£M)

0.008

Changes to the present value of the defined benefit obligation

	Period Ending 31 March 2023 (£M)	Year ended 31 March 2022 (£M)
Opening defined benefit obligation	5.367	5.305
Current service cost	0.669	0.620
Interest expense on defined benefit obligation	0.146	0.112
Contributions by participants	0.107	0.082
Actuarial losses/(gains) due to changes in financial assumptions	(2.722)	(0.698)
Actuarial results/ (gains) due to changes in demographic assumptions	0.015	(0.054)
Actuarial losses due to liability experience	0.451	0.016
Net benefits paid out	(0.018)	(0.016)
Past service cost (inc curtailments)	-	0
Net increase in liabilities from disposals/acquisitions	-	0
Settlements	-	0
Closing defined benefit obligation	4.015	5.367

Changes to the fair value of assets

	Period Ending 31 March 2023 (£M)	Year ended 31 March 2022 (£M)
Opening fair value of assets	3.805	3.253
Interest income on assets	0.108	0.072
Re-measurement of gains/(losses) on assets	(0.326)	0.181
Contributions paid by the employer	0.304	0.233
Contributions paid by participants	0.107	0.082
Net benefits paid out	(0.018)	(0.016)
Net increase in assets from disposals/acquisitions	-	-
Settlements	-	-
Closing fair value of assets	3.980	3.805

Actual return on assets

	Period Ending 31 March 2023 (£M)	Year ended 31 March 2022 (£M)
Interest income on assets	0.108	0.072

Remeasurement gain/(loss) on assets	(0.326)	0.181
Actual return on assets	(0.218)	0.253

Estimated pension expense in future periods

An estimate has been provided for the changes to the profit and loss account in future periods, based on the assumptions as at 31 March 2023 set out in Results under IAS 19 (LGPS funded benefits).

Funded Benefits

	Period Ending 31 March 2024 (£M)
Current service cost	0.323
Interest on net defined benefit liability	(0.005)
Total estimated pension expense	0.318
Allowance for administration expenses included in Current Service Cost (£M)	0.008
Estimated pensionable payroll over the period (£M)	1.624

Sensitivity analysis

The approximate impact of changing the key assumptions on the present value of the funded defined benefit obligation as at 31 March 2023 and the projected service cost for the period ending 31 March 2024 is set out below.

In each case, only the assumption mentioned is altered; all other assumptions remain the same and are summarised in Section 1.

We have not included sensitivity of unfunded benefits (where applicable) on materiality grounds.

Discount rate assumption

Adjustment to discount rate	+0.1% p.a.	Base figure	-0.1% p.a.
Present value of total obligation (£M)	3.895	4.015	4.139
% change in present value of total obligation	-3.0%		3.1%
Projected service cost (£M)	0.308	0.323	0.338
Approximate % change in projected service cost	-4.5%		4.6%

Rate of general increase in salaries

Adjustment to salary increase rate	+0.1% p.a.	Base figure	-0.1% p.a.
Present value of total obligation (£M)	4.035	4.015	3.999
% change in present value of total obligation	0.5%		-0.4%
Projected service cost (£M)	0.323	0.323	0.323
Approximate % change in projected service cost	0.0%		0.0%

Rate of increase to pensions and rate of revaluation of pension accounts

Adjustment to pension increase rate	+0.1% p.a.	Base figure	-0.1% p.a.
Present value of total obligation (£M)	4.119	4.015	3.915
% change in present value of total obligation	2.6%		-2.5%
Projected service cost (£M)	0.338	0.323	0.308
Approximate % change in projected service cost	4.6%		-4.5%

Post retirement mortality assumption

Adjustment to mortality age rating assumption *	-1 year	Base figure	+1 year
Present value of total obligation (£M)	4.123	4.015	3.907
% change in present value of total obligation	2.7%		-2.7%
Projected service cost (£M)	0.335	0.323	0.311
Approximate % change in projected service cost	3.7%		-3.7%

* A rating of +1 year means that members are assumed to follow the mortality pattern of the base table for an individual that is 1 year older than them

Data Summary - Funded benefits

The following data was provided by the Fund Administering Authority and/or the Employer and has been used to produce the results in this report. Details of the split of assets between the various asset classes were also provided by the Fund Administering Authority and are shown in Section 1. We have also shown some of the intermediate calculations used in evaluating the figures in this report.

Funded membership data summary

Data as at 31 March 2023

	Number	Average age (liability weighted)	Average retirement age (liability weighted)	Total pay (£M)
Active members	37	49.3	65.9	1.380

	Number	Average age (liability weighted)	Average retirement age (liability weighted)	Total pay (£M)
Deferred members	16	48.1	65.3	0.033
Pensioners and dependants	4	63.7	Na	0.007

Funded cash-flow data provided

	Months Provided	Amount Provided (£M)	Amount Used (£M)
Employer – Normal contributions	10	0.254	-
Employer – Additional capital contributions		-	-
Employer – Early retirement strain on fund payments	11	-	-
Total contributions by the Employer			0.304
Employee – Normal contributions	10	0.089	-
Employee – Added years contributions	10	-	-
Total contributions by participants			0.107
Transfers in	-	-	-
Other income	-	-	-
Transfers out	-	-	-
Retirement lump sums	-	-	-
Other outgoings	-	-	-
Death in service lump sums *	-	-	-
Benefits paid (i.e. pension paid)	-	-	-
Net benefits paid out **			0.018

* We have calculated the expected death in service lump sums over the year to be (£M) 0.002

** The 'Net benefits paid out' figure includes an allowance for expenses of (£M) 0.008

Any other approximations applied in deriving the "Amount Used" are set out in the Covering Report

Annualised pensionable payroll over the accounting period

Description	Amount (£M)*
Period ending 31 st March 2023	1.560
Period ending 31 st March 2021	1.197

* The annualised pensionable payroll has been derived from the contributions paid over the relevant accounting period.

Fund Return

The gross Fund return has been calculated using the method set out in the Covering Report.

WE have made an allowance for investment management expenses by reducing the provided Fund returns by 0.3% based on the Fund's experience.

The overall Fund return from the 2022 Valuation date is -7.7% and this return has been used to roll forward the assets notionally allocated to the Employer at the 2022 Valuation.

We have used known Fund returns for the period ending 31 December 2022 and index returns for the remainder of the accounting period. The index returns between 31 December 2022 and 31 March 2023 have been calculated as 2.8%.

Information relating to the 2022 triennial valuation of the LGPS scheme

The results in section (LGPS funded scheme) have been updated to allow for the data and results of the 2022 triennial actuarial valuation. A summary of the membership data is shown above. The following information is provided at this year-end following feedback from auditors. We also permit employers to share with auditors the individual results schedule they received containing the 2022 valuation results and contribution rates for their organisation subject to the terms of disclosure set out in the Covering Report.

Notional assets (£m)	3.902
Notional assets as a proportion of the whole Fund assets at 31 March 2022 (%)	0.0%

18 Capital commitments

At 31st March 2023 authorised future capital expenditure amounted to £Nil. The company has no capital commitments at 31st March 2023 (2021-22: £Nil).

19 Provisions

	2022-23		2021-22	
	Staff Costs Provision	Total	Staff Costs Provision	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April	175	175	-	-
Provided in the year	-	-	175	175
Provisions not required written back	-	-	-	-
Provisions utilised in the year	(175)	(175)	-	-
Change in discount rate	-	-	-	-
Borrowing costs (unwinding of discount)	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31 March	-	-	175	175

20 Contingent Liabilities

Northern Ireland Screen received a legal challenge regarding an employment related claim however a reasonable estimate cannot be quantified and the likelihood of probable outflow cannot be reliability measured (2021-22: £Nil).

21 Contingent Assets

Northern Ireland Screen may be eligible for recoupment. Recoupment is returns from conditional grants/investments made through the Screen Fund. This is not across all contracts and each contract will have their own express details on whether recoupment is applicable and the specified %.

Due to the unpredictable nature of projects and whether they will be successful it is difficult to predict estimated recoupment income for a project. The timings of recoupments vary per project and on average tend to be paid 2-3 months in arrears.

Northern Ireland Screen have looked at previous recoupments and trends and have made an assumption that a further income of up to £60,000 may be paid in relation to the financial year 2022-23 however as this is not virtually certain this amount has not been accrued. Some recoupment may be received in perpetuity.

Recoupment is reviewed regularly by the Chief Operating Officer and key staff to monitor recoupment income and a detailed schedule is completed to track income due and received.

22 Events after the reporting date

There was an event after the reporting date which would be classified by Northern Ireland Screen as a non-adjusting event. Northern Ireland Screen received a legal challenge regarding an employment related claim however a reasonable estimate and the likelihood of probable outflow cannot be reliability measured.

23 Additional disclosures to comply with the Financial Reporting Manual (FReM)

FReM requires non-departmental public bodies to regard grant-in-aid received as contributions from controlling bodies giving rise to a financial interest in the residual interest of the body and hence accounting for as financing, that is by crediting them to income and expenditure reserve. In addition FReM requires grant-in-aid to be accounted for on a cash basis.

However, as the organisation is required to prepare accounts in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, DfE has given the organisation permission to continue to treat grants as income. If Northern Ireland Screen were required to comply with the FReM the result of this compliance would be as follows:

Statement of Financial Activities prepared under FReM

	Note	2022-23 £	2021-22 £
Incoming Resources			
DCMS – BFI - ILBF	4	3,150,440	3,930,201
TCAGSM - ILBF	4	845,166	847,457
DCMS – BFI - USBF	4	1,867,102	1,521,470
BFI	4	214,443	164,819
Arts Council	4	244,052	244,292
Various funding Income	4	693,773	761,204
Other income (Pension Interest)		108,000	72,000
CINES		604,141	-
Total Incoming Resources		7,727,117	7,541,443
Resources Expended			
Direct Expenditure of the organisation		28,868,096	22,582,978
Total resources expended		28,868,096	22,582,978
Net deficit for the year		(21,140,979)	(15,041,535)
Actuarial (loss)/gain on pension scheme		1,930,000	917,000
Amount transferred to funds		(19,210,979)	(14,124,535)

Analysis of funds prepared under the FReM

	2022-23 £	2021-22 £
Balance at 01 April	931,393	(1,364,039)
Grant-in-aid received in the year	18,629,181	16,419,967
Net operating costs for the year	(19,210,979)	(14,124,535)
Balance at 31 March	(581,798)	931,393

Date of authorisation for issue

The Accounting Officer authorised the issue of these financial statements on 30th June 2023.