



# Department for Culture Media & Sport

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All MPs

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Dear colleague,

## **Culture and Creativity: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow**

I am writing to you to share a copy of a paper I am making available today that provides an overview of the work of this Government over the past five years on cultural policy.

Our policies, funding decisions and interventions have been focused on strengthening the cultural sectors, creating new opportunities and unlocking investment. The UK enjoys an enviable reputation for thriving and dynamic cultural and creative sectors and this is something we must nurture and protect.

Over the life of the current Parliament, the Government will have provided or made possible:

- over £8 billion of grant in aid and Lottery funding towards the arts, museums, heritage, cultural diplomacy and cultural education;
- capital expenditure totalling £125 million for museums and regional museum investment of around £200 million;
- total Heritage National Lottery investment of over £1.5 billion; and
- over £400 million towards cultural and music education by the end of 2015/16.

In 2012, the Government restored the share of National Lottery funding to the good causes, from just over 16 per cent to 20 per cent, benefiting a range of organisations and individuals across the cultural sectors.

We have worked in close partnership with our strategic funding bodies and have, for example, seen capital transformation across our national museums and galleries, with smarter investment in regional museums, greater operational freedoms for national museums and supporting regional collections through capital investment in match-funded partnership with the generosity of the Wolfson Foundation.



We have transformed the ways in which we approach the protection of our national heritage. New investment has gone into cathedrals, listed places of worship and towards new and existing memorials. We have established a new English Heritage charity that will manage our world-class heritage and become self-financing over the years ahead.

Philanthropy, private giving and donations to cultural organisations have increased enormously under the leadership of this Government. We introduced and invested in the pioneering Catalyst scheme to increase giving, build fundraising capability across the sector and unlock private funding.

Building on the Acceptance in Lieu scheme, the Government introduced the Cultural Gifts Scheme incentivising the donation of important cultural objectives to the nation within a donor's lifetime. Through other innovative tax measures, we have are equipping theatres and orchestras with the means to offset costs of increasing the number of new productions and securing greater public access to their works across the country.

I remain committed to the development of libraries as essential community hubs across the country. A new taskforce of leaders drawn from the cultural, library and local government sectors is now sitting and is focused on helping to improve libraries' digital capability, enhancing the role of libraries as important places of learning and securing best practice.

Fifty years on from the first White Paper for the Arts published by Jennie Lee in 1965, this Government has sought to build on those foundations and create a lasting legacy of sustainability and growth for Britain's cultural sectors. The paper I am making available today and depositing in the libraries of both Houses, represents our commitment to that vision and I commend it to you.



**Ed Vaizey MP**

Minister of State for Culture and the Digital Economy