

2017 - 2018: Quarter 1

Report of activity relating to Priority Areas of Activity Statements

Case Studies: THE FUTURE, Shetland Youth Theatre, Let's Circus

Interim Key Performance Indicator Statistics (appendix)











Priority Area 1: Youth Arts

This includes the groundbreaking work we do with Shetland Youth Theatre and the support of groups such as Maddrim Media and the Shetland Young Promoters Group. It will include innovative projects designed to increase the engagement of young people in the arts, such as Youth Arts Panels, and exchange programmes with organisations outwith Shetland, encouraging Shetland youth to engage with and help shape cultural events in Shetland.

Q1 in numbers

3 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days 202 Audience attendances 14 Development Sessions 284 Participations

Q1 was a very exciting time for **Shetland Youth Theatre**, as May saw months of hard work come to fruition through 'In the Still of the Night Have We Wept', funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (see Case Study).

Let's Circus visited Shetland in May, and several of the young people we support through groups and activities got involved as volunteers during their stay. They had the opportunity to work alongside the circus performers, learning about each stage of the production from rigging the tent to learning a huge variety of new circus skills.

Priority Area 2: Education & Learning

Programme of activities aimed at skills development for creative industries practitioners as well as evening classes aimed at increasing accessibility and participation in creative activities. The Gallery Education Programme will work with schools to encourage access to and engagement with our exhibition programme. We will also facilitate peer review and support by and for practitioners at all levels of participation and a range of formal learning opportunities in partnership with UHI.

Q1 in numbers

1 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days 78 Audience attendances 234 Development Sessions 1,465 Participations

Q1 included the end of the academic year, and we were delighted with the achievements of the students on all the courses we deliver in partnership with **Shetland College UHI**.

This year saw a considerable uplift in student achievement together with a slight increase in student numbers. Furthermore, SADA received two very positive external SQA visits.

21 **Vocational Pathway** students, who are all S4 school age and study part time in Mareel, successfully completed all the outcomes required to achieve the Creative Industries National Progression Award with a specialism in either Sound Engineering or Film Production.











7 students completed the **NC Creative Industries** course with specialisms in Film or Music and 6 students completed the **HNC Music** course. Each of these full time courses gives students the opportunity to study a broad range of practical, academic, creative and performance skills.

The **BA Applied Music** is delivered remotely through video conference by the UHI. Throughout the year, students have access to Mareel's recording, rehearsal and video conference facilities as well as ongoing tutor support. The 4 Shetland-based students enrolled on the course successfully progressed to their next year of study.

The new UHI **BA Contemporary Film Making in the Highlands and Islands** course completed its first year with 2 Shetland-based students progressing to their 2nd year.

We delivered a **Music Recording and Production** module via video conference as part of the UHI MLitt Music in the Environment course to students based in Brazil and Switzerland.

As an end of year celebration, students organised a **Student Showcase** event in the Mareel Auditorium on 31st May. This year 15 performers played a set of varying musical styles and Vocational Pathway and NC Creative Industry students also had the opportunity to screen short films created during the year.

Pupils from the Anderson High and Sandwick Junior High Schools enjoyed three days working with technicians in the Mareel Recording Studio as part of **Schools Activity Week**. As part of the activity weeks organised by the schools, pupils were given the chance to attend the Mareel Studio and record, under supervision of Mareel technicians, songs and music they had been working on during the year. The aim of the activity was to give the students an insight into how a typical studio session would be run. Over the three days 30 participants recorded three pieces of music.

Priority Area 3: Arts & Well-being

We will continue to lead in our partnership work in space2face, the restorative justice and arts programme. We will continue to advocate and support the provision of arts and cultural activities for older people in care settings, in partnership with Alzheimer Scotland, local and national arts professionals and Shetland Island Council's Social Care staff. This work will be in line with, and contributing to, international research in these areas.

Q1 in numbers

17 Development Sessions 195 Participations

Wellbeing Choir continued into the spring months, with Anne-Karine bringing a wonderful variety of songs to people of all ages.

We continued to partner with **Alzheimer Scotland** to facilitate '**Tak Your Makkin**', our knitting group for people with Alzheimer's and their carers. In June we were delighted to hear that the











project had been nominated for a 'Most Innovative Partnership' Award at the Dementia Scotland Awards.

Priority Area 4: Development & support

The support of individuals and groups is integral to our work and includes arts practitioners and creative industries micro businesses, audience development and our formal and informal education work. It also includes staff and volunteer development.

Q1 in numbers

85 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days 5,474 Audience attendances 56 Development Sessions 711 Participations

This quarter at Bonhoga has seen the new craft **Curated Retail** strategy continue to be popular with fantastic feedback from customers and healthy craft and print sales. The introduction of regular maker blogs on the website and shared on Facebook has led to many 'likes' on Facebook and several direct sales of craft. This is an indicator that an online retail offer may be feasible; this is currently being researched. The high quality photography of Jenny Leask has enhanced this marketing activity.

During the **Open Winners Exhibition** in the main gallery, one of the four exhibitors **Gill Bridle** also launched a series of prints and household accessories based on her original paper cut artworks of Shetland scenes. These proved to be very popular with customers with much of her stock selling out within the exhibition period. More stock was ordered and she continues to be popular.

We launched the work of a brand new local designer **Elaine Ann Nicolson**. Elaine is a recent graduate of the Shetland College having completed a degree in Contemporary Textiles. Her collections proved incredibly popular and the accompanying marketing provided by our team increased her profile further. We are delighted that her commercial ranges have gotten off to such a fantastic start.

The shop carries the work of over 60 artist and makers and with summer approaching, the shop has a strong focus on Shetland work to meet the demands and expectations of a tourist visitor.

We continued to host the monthly Creative Industries Forum in Mareel, an independent, informal and open group of Shetland Creative Industries practitioners who meet to network and discuss a variety of Creative Industries related topics.

We continued to provide free meeting spaces to local arts groups including the **Lerwick Writer's Group**, **space2face** restorative justice project and the **Peerie Makkers** management committee.

We launched our **Community Film Project** in April, which looked to provide training and guidance for members of community groups on how to use film to promote their work, and is funded by the **People's Postcode Lottery**. 11 community groups signed up for this opportunity, and were taken through a series of workshops exploring storytelling in film, using











cameras and sound equipment, and editing techniques. The groups are all hard at work creating their first films, which will be entered to the Homemade in Shetland section of Screenplay 2017.

Priority Area 5: Programme, Commissioning & Curation

This will include the programming of our cinema (in partnership with City Screen), gallery, theatre and auditorium (a range of local, national and international promoters including Shetland Folk Festival, and DF concerts); Wordplay and Screenplay, our highly successful book and film festivals; the Shetland International Guitar Festival, curated by Martin Taylor; and Fiddle Frenzy, curated by Bethany and Jenna Reid. We will also develop creative residencies in partnership with local and national bodies (including Scottish Chamber Orchestra, National Theatre of Scotland, Scottish Book Trust) and extend our regional, national and international reach through the development of a variety of festivals and events, including a Northern Isles Book Festival, in collaboration with key partners in Orkney and Shetland and the hosting of a one off Nordic/Tartan Crime Noir Conference in November 2015.

Q1 in numbers

1,107 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days 44,874 Audience attendances 40 Development Sessions 1,814 Participations

Full event listings can be found at http://issuu.com/shetlandarts

Music Programming

We had a varied and exciting programme of music for Q1, with Mr McFall's Chamber continuing our classical season in Mareel with a stunning concert in the Auditorium. This was followed by a concert by the ever-popular Singer-Songwriter Night attendees. The classical season was then wrapped up in May with a performance of madrigals from the Baroque ensemble, the Dunedin Consort.

For audiences more interested in contemporary works, we were delighted to work with **Cryptic**, an arts organisation based in Glasgow and specialising in high-quality, innovative work, to bring **Mark Lyken's Oscillon Response** to Mareel in May. This was a challenging piece, so in order to give context to the work Mark gave an interview to Shetland Arts TV in the run-up to the event. Mark's performance was preceded by an afternoon workshop for students and concluded with a Q&A session.

June saw the hugely acclaimed, 10-strong international 'supergroup' **String Sisters,** base themselves in Mareel in order to record their latest album in the Auditorium, and give a concert











of these new works at the end of the process. The String Sisters were particularly active on social media throughout, and turn-out was good for their gig.

At the end of this quarter we were delighted to host an album launch for ex-HNC Music student **Lewis Hall**'s debut, "Murmur", recorded at Mareel. Lewis, who graduated from the HNC Music course in 2016, performed his ambient compositions to a capacity audience accompanied by projected visuals from **Chloe Keppie** and **Eve Christie**.

Throughout April, May and June we have had **Mixology** with DJs **Lyall** and **John Collins** playing in the Cafe Bar.

External Promoters

Young Fiddler of the Year was hosted in Mareel's Auditorium, with a series of well-attended competition rounds and a final concert featuring **George Spence**, this year's winner.

Mareel proved to be, yet again, a fantastic venue for the **Shetland Folk Festival**, now in its 36th year. With concerts each night, the Peerie Spang for families with young children and the Foy all selling well, the Festival Committee were more than happy with their experience with Shetland Arts.

In May we saw **Shetland Forwirds** host a variety night in the Garrison, whilst local promoters **Ragged Wood** brought **Laura Cortese & The Dance Cards**, last seen at the Shetland Folk Festival 2016, back to Mareel with great acclaim.

CASH, the Johnny Cash tribute act came to Mareel in June with **ANS Promotions**. Supported by three local acts, this was a well-attended standing gig in the Auditorium.

Film

Despite fine weather and one or two underperforming blockbusters (such as *Transformers: The Last Knight*, which did badly all over the UK), cinema attendances were up 14% on the same quarter last year. Big family animations such as Smurfs: The Lost Village and The Boss Baby continue to be our most successful films, but smaller films were also well-attended - the recent remake of *Whisky Galore!* deserves special mention here, as we're about to bring it back for its third run in August! A notable fact is that Shetland's own Chris Stout played fiddle on the soundtrack. We've been experimenting with scheduling screenings further in advance and getting tickets on sale earlier to allow customers to plan ahead, and feedback has been very positive.

Two new strands were introduced to the programme: **Screen Classics**, bringing classics (of all sorts!) back to the big screen where they belong; and **Screen Pride**, showcasing films with an LGBT theme or characters. And the **Screen Wednesdays** brand was relaunched as **Screen Horizons** - a new name and a slightly altered screening schedule, but still the same specially-curated mix of quality independents, foreign language cinema and documentaries.











We've been seeing great turnouts for art-related films - screenings of documentaries on American Impressionism and Japanese artist Hokusai did very well. And, as part of **Autism Awareness Week** in April, we hosted a well-attended screening of award-winning documentary *Life, Animated* with a panel discussion after the film, and hope to do more events along these lines in future, partnering with local organisations.

Exhibition

Toby Paterson's exquisite exhibition *The Pinwheel* continued into Q1 at Bonhoga attracting over 1,700 visitors in April. Toby and his gallery were delighted that one work sold and that it remains in a private collection Shetland. *The Pinwheel* was followed by *Traces*, a group exhibition by the four category winners of last year's *Shetland Open Jeanette Nowak*, **Gillian Bridle**, **Vivian Ross-Smith** and **Aimee Labourne**. The artists explored connections between their work and themes that resonate beyond it: traditional skills, preservation and decay, lines of impermanence and layers of time. In the Lower Gallery **The Bairns' Open** filled the cafe wall with over 60 entries from young artists from P1-S6 and a prizes were awarded to **Freya Hutcheson** and **Tabitha Johnson**.

Following **Traces**, Bonhoga hosted the second exhibition in the **Start/Bonhoga Education Programme** with five schools across Shetland creating work with **Amy Gear** and **JJ Jamieson** for **THE FUTURE** (see Case Study).

Alongside all these exhibitions Bonhoga continued to showcase contemporary craft from Shetland and across the UK in the lower gallery while in Mareel the year-long exhibition of the SIC's Shetland Contemporary Art Collection came to an end in late June and was replaced with large scale photographs of the **Klondykers** by award-winning photographer **Jeremy Sutton-Hibbert**. We are delighted to be showcasing these images by Jeremy who visited Shetland in 1994 to record the huge influx of Eastern European fish factory ships (Klondykers) and their crews.

Priority Area 6: Recording, Broadcast and Intellectual Property

Maximising Mareel's digital production facilities (principally for music and video recording and broadcast), we will provide opportunities for musicians and producers to generate revenue and Intellectual Property. Shetland Arts will continue to create, protect and monetise its own Intellectual Property assets in partnership with Shetland Arts Intellectual Property Community Interest Company.

Q1 in numbers

37 Development Sessions50 Participations

It's been another busy and varied quarter at Mareel Recording Studio. Work was completed on *Murmur*, the debut album by **Lewis Hall**, with a hugely successful launch at the Quarff Hall mentioned earlier. Work began on a project featuring self-penned material by **Carol Jamieson**











and **Martin Naylor**, and local americana group **Kansa** recorded an album's worth of material live in the Green Room.

We hosted a significant recording project in early June, when Grammy-Award nominated folk supergroup **String Sisters** chose to record their next album at Mareel. The 10-piece group stretched the capabilities of the various spaces that comprise the studio, but the project - engineered by our very own Tim Matthew - was deemed a success, with mixing and mastering to be completed later in the year.

As part of Schools' activities week, 30 pupils from Anderson High School and Sandwick Junior High School participated in recording workshops across three days. There was further mastering work for local filmmakers, as well as some voiceover work for local businesses developing new websites. We also had several requests for CD duplication and archiving of material from reel-to-reel.













Case Study: THE FUTURE Start/Bonhoga Education Programme

Following on from last year's successful project THE ART WORLD, this year's Start/Bonhoga Education Programme explored THE FUTURE and asked, What will the world look like 300 years from now? Who will be living here in the year 2317?



Working with the same five participating schools (Fetlar Primary School, Baltasound JH School, Aith JH School, Whalsay School and Sandwick JH School) Amy Gear worked with 307 young artists to create the exhibition THE FUTURE at Bonhoga in June 2017 and online at 2317thefuture.tumblr.com

The project started in September: The Travelling Gallery travellinggallery.com visited each participating school with the exhibition Blush Response, accompanied by Amy. The virtual reality headset by artists Dennis and Debbie Club was really popular, giving students an opportunity to explore a fantasy interior. There were also animated paper sculptures and a painting on a solar panel, which helped inspire THE FUTURE. At











this point Amy met with each teacher to offer CPD relevant to the project including information and ideas for additional work in class.

In November 20 pupils and teachers from the participating secondary schools were offered the chance to attend the performance of FLIT, a touring multi-media production and superb example of how art can be political, musical and beautiful all at the same time. In Flit, artists and musicians worked together to create an immersive experience that doesn't sit within the traditional boundaries of art or music. This also inspired THE FUTURE.









Between January and March, all 307 pupils came to Bonhoga Gallery to visit the current exhibition and participate in a gallery workshop exploring the gallery exhibition within the context of the education programme and its theme of THE FUTURE. Some met with the exhibiting artist for a Q&A. They also all took part in a creative workshop with lead artist Amy Gear and editor JJ Jamieson, where their ideas about the future were translated into drawings, flip books, sound recordings and photographs.











The output from these workshops was used as the source material for JJ and Amy to create the final work for the exhibition which ran at Bonhoga Gallery from 16 June-2 July 2017 (c.2000)



visitors). S4 pupils from Sandwick worked additionally on compositions based on storytelling through music. These formed part of the sound piece for the final exhibition which consisted of three animated films. All 300+ young contributing artists visited the exhibition and took part in an evaluation of their work. We had a project timeline display and a comments wall which gathered over 300 comments from pupils, teachers and visitors.





A CPD event was held for teachers participating in the project prior to the opening event. We were delighted that Grace Heggs from our project funder Children & the Arts was able to join us and explain more about the organisation and how our project fits into the wider context of the organisation. This has helped us to start planning for next year's project, the theme of which will be MAPS & UNUSUAL LOCATIONS...







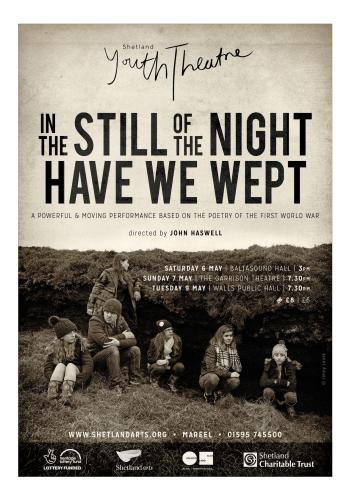




Case Study:

Shetland Youth Theatre - In the Still of the Night Have We Wept

Shetland Youth Theatre has been producing exciting, challenging and imaginative performances for over 20 years. Productions have been diverse, from plays written specifically



for the company, to adaptations of Shakespeare, Shetland Dialect works, musicals and a wide range of site-specific performance. Participants have travelled with productions to Inverness, Dublin, London and Copenhagen. SYT operates an open-door policy and participants range from 11-25.

Each year the group puts on one large production, giving the participants the opportunity to devise and develop a piece, working alongside a professional director and crew. Last year we met with John Haswell to discuss plans for our 2017 production, and he mentioned the idea of basing the piece around the First World War, from a Shetland perspective. A few months later and we had secured funding from the National Lottery's Heritage Lottery Fund to produce a moving and immersive performance based on poetry from WW1.













Supported by



John Haswell, director and writer, spent the first month of the project researching stories from Shetland and further afield for the production. He worked with Shetland Museum and Archives, and local experts such as Jon Sandison to find poems and archive materials to develop into the show's narrative. He finally settled on 32 poems from writers across the world, but the majority of the pieces were written by relatively unknown Shetland poets.

The call went out for participants in this production, and 27 young people signed up for the demanding series of workshops and rehearsals. John Haswell took them through an intense

workshopping process, where they looked at certain poems in detail and devised responses to the emotive content.





Tired Teens to Traumatised Troops - blog post by cast member Molly Williams

"Shetland Youth Theatre (SYT) met once again to continue work on our latest show "In the Still of the Night Have we Wept". Scripts were issued, first few lines assigned and placements on stage decided. A beginning to a show exploring how the war affect us, emotionally and physically.

The opening of any production takes time to perfect with SYT laying down the foundation and ploughing through the beginning section of the script, from practising looking bored to crafting emotional movement in response the soldiers fighting in the trenches. The cast created noises to fit the scenes whether it be the clacking of mothers' knitting needles to the marching of soldiers.

Groups interpreted the script in different ways to create pieces of choreographed movement before selecting a final style and using it to show a range of images and feelings, whilst trying to avoid the ever tempting, comic relief, of jazz hands.

The rehearsal came to a close with the cast left mostly on the floor, like troops lying in the trenches











From teenagers, to mothers waving off their sons, to trench rats, SYT march on in their quest for a thought provoking and reflective piece of drama to mark the centenary of the first world war."





As the workshops moved into rehearsals, lines and parts were assigned and the cast had the difficult task of memorising 32 poems and learning to speak verse in a natural way. The piece came together through exploration of words, sound, song and movement, as our volunteer assistant Freya Garden explains.

Trust Your Fellow Troops - Blog post by Freya Garden

"As rehearsals continue for SYT's 'In the Still of the Night Have We Wept', it was time to focus on a key part of every single production – movement.

Movement is such an amazing tool of expression and visual storytelling. With an age range of 11 to 21 in the company, there is a wide variety of skills between them. Their experience in different types of dancing, gymnastics and athletics came in useful whilst creating this section of the play. The inspiration for the segment of movement was the poems 'The Toll of War' and "The Waste" with the harrowing imagery of what happened to troops in the trenches when a bomb blast went off.

The cast branched into small groups and began devising moving tableaux. After a lot of initial giggling at the prospect of bending in strange shapes and reiterating the trust that the other members of your group won't drop you by accident, the cast found their focus and tried out lots of different things. By using the strengths and advantages of individuals in their small groups and supporting each other, they came up with fantastic shapes and created flowing movements which when held in a brief tableau were eerily powerful and reminiscent of old photographs of the battle-strewn trenches.











Having now covered nearly a quarter of the script, it's really starting to look and feel like a show. The powerful messages that come from the poems is driving raw emotion from the company and their understanding of the responsibility of what they are conveying is both humbling and honest."









A key element to the production was the projection of imagery from the First World War. With help from local experts, the team pulled together hundreds of incredible images to use in the piece. Assistant Freya Garden and our Creative Apprentice turned Shetland Arts Technician Liam Brannan spent a lot of time putting together this element of the show. Liam was also indispensable as the Technician for the performance. The piece became very complex, with over 400 technical cues in its 70 minute running time. Local musicians also contributed hugely, with students from our HNC and NC Music courses and local professionals composing emotive and interesting pieces for use in the production.

Rehearsal time ended and the show went on the road. The production premiered to a small but very appreciative audience in Baltasound, Unst, before travelling back down to the Garrison the next evening. The group then finished the show's run in Walls, and in each location it received an incredible reaction from the audience.











Review in i'i Shetland

"It takes a lot of skill and talent to produce a performance which will stick in the minds of anyone who witnesses it. However, that is what Shetland Youth Theatre have managed to achieve alongside John Haswell... The production sought to build a bridge between the reactions at the time and the reactions of today's young people. The group studied the poetry of the Great War and found the emotions expressed within them were still relevant in the present day... Members of the production urged the audience to consider the atrocities of the Great War and other battles, and to remember those lost and those affected by them."

Review in Shetland Times

"Shetland Youth Theatre, with the visionary stewardship, direction and research of John Haswell and his team have produced something memorable... the poetry of those who went through the experience of the trenches, as well as those left to worry on the homefront, was hauntingly brought to life with powerful and intense emotion. This performance won't be forgotten by any who witnessed it. Director Haswell and the youth of Shetland have put together a remarkable performance, which is timeless and emotive. The personal expressions of those from home who experienced war have been brought back to life; driven by a special young cast who breathed every single emotion of those words."









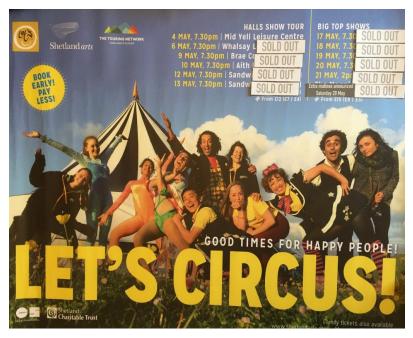


Case Study: Let's Circus

In May we had a group of exciting visitors to Shetland: the talented artists of Let's Circus! Let's Circus is a team from Newcastle who take the art of circus performance to locations across the world. They often focus on rural communities, getting everyone involved through workshops, performances and volunteer opportunities.



The group arrived in April, and did some preliminary shows and appearances at the Shetland Folk Festival, before starting their tour of the isles. They visited Mid Yell, Whalsay, Brae, Aith and Sandwick, before setting up the Magpie Tent in Lerwick for their final sold-out shows.



Over 1,500 school children took part in the outreach program of workshops and school visits, from Unst, Yell, Fetlar, Whalsay, Fair Isle, Foula and across the mainland from Dunrossness to North Roe.

"Both my lasses took part in the workshops in Mid Yell and loved it, brilliant to bring something different to the schools."

"The children loved the workshops, the performers had patience and humour which made the children feel at ease."

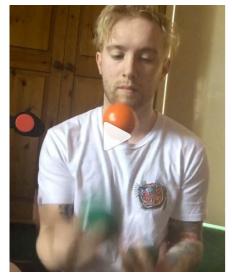














Following

klarkeee I've wanted to learn to juggle for years, set a goal I would learn if this year, the circus came to town and got me started! Here's 4 days in, hour or more a days practise. Massive thank you to letscircus, if you haven't seen them already then make sure you got #letscircus #fewandfarcollective #juggling #learning #fewandfar

p_sayer Stick at it brotha

a a

259 views

Add a comment...

Several of our staff received amazing CPD training from the circus, in particular Senior Technician Thomas Jones, who travelled around Shetland for a month with the group working on their shows. We also were able to provide circus volunteering opportunities for our young arts enthusiasts, with 8 volunteers helping out over the month with rigging, tech, lighting, front of house duties, running schools workshops and learning some circus skills themselves!





















Key Performance Indicators Concerts, Screenings, Exhibition	Concert	s, Scree	nings, Ex	hibition		Audience attendances	ances		Develop	Development Sessions	ssions		Participations	ations		
	Apr	May Jun		۵ م	Apr	May	Jun	Q1	Apr	May	Jun	۵1 م	Apr	May	Jun	۵1
1. Youth Arts	0	3	0	3	0	202	0	202	7	9	1	14	140	139	2	284
2. Education & Learning	0	_	0	_	0	78	0	78	61	129	44	234	363	613	489	1465
3. Arts & Well-being	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	9	4	17	20	85	09	195
4. Development & Support	24	31	30	85	1346	1876	2252	5474	5	38	13	56	198	290	223	711
5. Programming	388	373	346	1107	17694	15282	11898	44874	10	26	4	40	185	1592	37	1814
6. Broadcast, Recording & IP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	13	17	37	20	0	0	50
Programme Total	412	408	376	1196	19040	17438	14150	50628	97	218	83	398	986	2719	814	4519