



Shetland *arts*

2017 - 2018: Quarter 2

July, August and September

Report of activity relating to Priority Areas of Activity Statements

Case Studies: Summer Dance Intensives and Screenplay

Interim Key Performance Indicator Statistics (appendix)



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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.

Q2 in numbers

39 Development Sessions
370 Participations

This summer we provided several fun and creative activities for young people (See Case Study: **Summer Dance Intensives**). We were also able to accommodate nearly 1,200 young people during **Screenplay** for our expanded **Education Programme**, which gave the students the opportunity to attend a film screening, then participate in a workshop which explored several different themes and allowed the young participants to evaluate the films (See Case Study: **Screenplay**).

Members of The **Shetland Young Promoters Group** and **Maddrim Media** have been busy working, with support from Shetland Arts, to develop a project that started in late September. The project aims to use Mareel's facilities and equipment to develop a cross artform production and exhibition produced by young artists and musicians to be showcased by SYPG and Maddrim in mid January 2018.

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.

Q2 in numbers

163 Development Sessions
936 Participations

After the successful completion and evaluation of Year 2 of the Start / Bonhoga Education Programme (see **THE FUTURE** Case Study in Q1 report) funding was confirmed from **Children & the Arts** for Year 3 and Shetland Arts' Exhibition Manager was able to attend the valuable Partners Day in London in July, along with Lead Artist **Amy Gear**. From this the framework for



Year 3 was finalised to encompass upcoming exhibitions and opportunities and it was presented in a resource pack to teachers at the CPD session in August.

This year **Brae Junior High School** joined the project, and together with **Fetlar, Aith, Whalsay** and **Sandwick** they are exploring their surroundings and unexpected sites, first by walking and drawing, then expanding these sketches and ideas into 3D work for the final exhibition next summer.

As well as making artwork for their collaborative exhibition, students will be visiting an exhibition by London based artist **Amanda Welch** in the Bressay Lighthouse in May 2018 and the **Artangel** commission by Vietnamese artist **Dinh Q. Lê**, a spectacular video work **The Colony**, in the auditorium in Mareel in Feb/Mar 2018. Each pupil has been given a sketchbook and is currently undertaking Phase 1 of the project (walking, drawing, research and development).

Shetland Arts and **Shetland College** continued their fruitful partnership and recruitment for the **17/18 formal music and film education programme** continued during July and August, culminating in students completing their enrolment and induction at the Shetland College campus and Mareel at the beginning of September.

At the start of the academic year there was a student roll of 18 part time **Vocational Pathways**, 10 full time **NC Creative Industries** and 7 full time **HNC Music**. In addition, 9 students from the networked UHI **BA Filmmaking** and **BA Applied Music** courses, along with 2 **MA Music In The Environment** students, will be based in Mareel whilst studying online.

This academic year will see Shetland Arts' staff, for the first time, develop and deliver two modules to **BA Filmmaking** students via Video Conference across the **University of the Highlands and Islands** network.

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.

Q2 in numbers

35 Development Sessions
111 Participations

Our **Arts in Care** project restarted in September, with our artists liaising with their host care centres and planning their activities. We look forward to the outcomes of the first sessions in late 2017, which will include film, drama and crafts.



The **Wellbeing Choir** took a break as our Choir Leader moved on to a new job, and we recruited the fantastic **Suzanne Briggs** who will be taking the choir forward from October.

Our **Tak your Makkin** knitting group, run in partnership with **Alzheimer Scotland**, continues to run monthly in the Mareel Cafe Bar. Earlier this year the project was nominated at **Scotland's Dementia Awards for Most Innovative Partnership**, and representatives attended the awards in Glasgow in September. The group appeared alongside some fantastic projects, and unfortunately did not win in their category, but it was an inspiring event to be a part of.

We continued our support for **space2face**, the restorative arts project working with people involved in offending behaviour.

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.

Q2 in numbers

93 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days
6,665 Audience attendances
41 Development Sessions
940 Participations

This was a busy quarter at **Bonhoga** encompassing the summer months and peak tourist season. The shop carried the work of over 70 artists and makers during the quarter with a substantial Shetland offering to meet the expectations of the summer visitor. The work of local textile designers **Joan Fraser** and **Margaret Hamilton** sold particularly well, and we began selling the work of local ceramicist **Sharon McGeady** and her functional hand-thrown pottery pieces have proven very popular with customers. Local jeweller designer **Esme Wilcock** expanded her range of jewellery and also continues to sell well.

The weekly **Maker Blogs** continued to drive traffic to the Shetland Arts website, creating publicity for Shetland Arts, Bonhoga and the local makers themselves, and providing an effective method of introducing the work to our online audience.

To complement the **Nordic Art** exhibition in the main gallery (see 'Exhibitions' below), the Lower Gallery had an exhibition of linocuts on linen from Belfast based artist **Gail Kelly**. This exhibition proved very popular with visitors with half of all work exhibited being sold. Showing at the same time, the exhibition of textile-inspired jewellery from six UK designers in the Lower Gallery cabinet was also well received.

Shetland Arts continued to provide meeting spaces for the several groups including the **Lerwick Writers Group**, **Westside Writers Group**, the **Peerie Makkers** school knitting project, and **Shetland Moving Image Archive Group**.

In mid September, the **Garrison Stakeholders Group**, of which Shetland Arts was a member, held a public meeting to establish a new group called **The Friends of the Garrison**. The group's aim is "to work towards a shared vision to support, advocate, celebrate, nurture and champion the **Garrison Theatre** as a thriving, dynamic and inclusive community performance



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space ensuring the theatre remains as part of the fabric of arts provision within the community.” Shetland Arts will work closely with the group to achieve this aim, together with Shetland Charitable Trust who own the building.

Our support for the local creative industries continued through hosting the monthly **Creative Industry Forum** informal meetings.

Furthermore, our support for individual creative practitioners continued through the provision of numerous paid freelance opportunities in the delivery of our program of activities.

Priority Area 5: Programme, Commissioning & Curation

This will include the programming of our cinema, gallery, theatre and auditorium; Wordplay and Screenplay, our highly successful book and film festivals, and Fiddle Frenzy. We will also develop creative residencies in partnership with local and national bodies and extend our regional, national and international reach through the development of a variety of festivals and events.

Q2 in numbers

1,156 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days
52,929 Audience attendances
193 Development Sessions
1,666 Participations

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

Music

July saw the first visit to Shetland by renowned singer and songwriter, **Martha Wainwright**, daughter of Loudon Wainwright III and Kate McGarrigle and sister of Rufus. Martha played an astounding set to a packed auditorium, with support from members of her own band as **Bernice Project**. This was also an opportunity to introduce the Shetland audience to **Jenny Sturgeon**, a singer-songwriter who recently moved to the islands from Aberdeen and played a beautiful support slot with her musical partner, **Jonny Hardie** (Old Blind Dogs).

Our classical season was rounded off with a series of concerts from **Scottish Chamber Orchestra**. As well as performing in Mareel, the group travelled to Aith and Burravoe, setting up on the floor of these halls, rather than on the stage. This created a very special atmosphere in the halls and made for memorable performances. The SCO also performed a short, hour long set for babies and small children at Mareel, which was very well attended and left the peerie ones rapt and intrigued, especially by the cello!

Open Mic @ Mareel started in mid July. Hosted by **Magnus Stout**, our open mic is running fortnightly on Sundays from 2pm to 4pm in the Cafe Bar. This new initiative has created a platform for emerging and established singers, musicians, poets, and prose writers to share their work in a supportive and encouraging atmosphere.



August saw the return of **Fiddle Frenzy**, curated by **Claire White**, with eight days of workshops, session, masterclasses, tours and concerts. Participants were able to learn skills in such diverse subjects as yoga, silversmithing or amplifying acoustic instruments as well as studying and sharing in the more traditional Shetland fiddle techniques. Concerts were well attended, with performances from **Salt House**, **Ross Couper and Tom Oakes** (who launched their new album as part of the festival), **RANT**, **Jenna Reid and Kevin Mackenzie**.

The 2017/18 Classical Season kicked off in September with a concert bringing together two of Shetland's young shining lights in the field - **Abby Hayward** on cello and **Neil Georgeson** on piano. Neil and Abby explored the theme *In Our Homeland* with an ambitious programme drawn from Grieg, Schumann and Arvo Part amongst others. Neil is an established performer in Shetland and this was an exciting opportunity to bring Abby home and raise her profile.

Aly Bain and Phil Cunningham made a welcome return to Shetland in September with two very popular concerts in Mareel and Walls. As well as receiving fantastic feedback from audiences, particularly in Walls, Aly and Phil were also very happy with their trip and have already confirmed performances with us in Shetland again in 2018.

External Promoters / Hirers

At the beginning of July **Open Door Drama** produced *The Amazing Maurice and his Educated Rodents* with primary school aged children in the Garrison Theatre, under the direction of **Izzy Swanson**.

The Garrison was used again in July by **Shetland Accordion and Fiddle Society** for their ever-popular variety concert, featuring performers of all ages from across Shetland.

Later in July, **Beyond Presents Ltd** brought the comedian and TV personality, **Phil Jupitus** to Mareel for a very well attended night in the auditorium.

Film

Summer box office figures at US cinemas were recently reported to be the worst for 22 years, and, alas, at Mareel we also had a disappointing summer. Attendances were down on this quarter last year, with August in particular falling short of expectations. There was a widely acknowledged lack of hit films, and several high-profile releases that underperformed worldwide.

There were some highlights, however – family animations such as *Despicable Me 3*, *Cars 3* and *The Emoji Movie* performed well, as did the newest films in the *Planet of the Apes* and *Spider-Man* franchises. Christopher Nolan's Second World War epic *Dunkirk* did brilliantly, screening to a total of 2252 people over its run, and the new adaptation of Stephen King's *It* screened to more than 1000 people over a week, much busier than we would have expected for a horror film!



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One event in particular attracted uniformly positive customer feedback, including comments such as “the best thing I’ve ever been to at Mareel.” Gin: The Movie, which we showed in association with the **Taste of Shetland** festival in September, was a ‘taste-along’ screening of a documentary about UK gin distilleries, from Brighton to Unst, with attendees given samples of each of the six featured gins during the film. Taste of Shetland and Shetland Reel gin were delighted with event, as were the 83 very happy customers!

Exhibition

Complementing the work by photographer **Jeremy Sutton-Hibbert** in Mareel was his exhibition **North Sea Fishing** at Bonhoga in July/August. A touring exhibition hosted by the Scottish Fisheries Museum in Anstruther, this work explored the reality of life at sea for the fishermen of Scotland’s North East fishing communities aboard the seine net fishing boats Mairead and Argosy in the North Sea in the 1990s. These powerful black and white photographs evoked the gruelling life of danger, discomfort and hard labour that was, and still is, intrinsic to this industry. In contrast, the Lower Gallery at Bonhoga and Feature Space in Mareel displayed pen and watercolour work by Australian artist **Margaret Worthington** whose time as Artist in Residence at both Sumburgh and Bressay Lighthouses inspired her work, with hints of ever-changing light, swirls of mist and Fair Isle patterning.

The exhibition **Behind the North Wind** at Bonhoga from the end of August drew together work by three prominent artists from the Nordic region: **Malfridur Aðalsteindóttir** (Norway), **Kristín Reynisdóttir** (Iceland) and **Barbara Ridland** (Shetland). With parallels to North Sea Fishing but a very different feel and sentiment, the three artists explored their connection to the idea of North, described variously throughout history as either a place of darkness and cold, hard and evil or - in complete contrast - a place where virtuous people live in happiness and joy. This show was very well-received, especially given its conceptual theme, and was well-attended along with the exhibitions in the Lower Gallery of prints by Gail Kelly and contemporary craft in the cabinet.

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.

Q2 in numbers

27 Development Sessions



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Work continued this quarter on recording projects by **Carol Jamieson and Martin Naylor, Kansa, Freda Leask and Kris Drever**. Kris also brought an exciting project to the studio for mixing: **10 String Symphony**, a progressive folk duo from Nashville comprising 5-string banjo and 5-string fiddle. Their album is now taking pre-orders and is due for release in the new year.

Bruce Ncube recorded a CD of African Percussion which was well received, and the project was seen through to completion with mastering and prep for duplication being handled entirely by the studio. Mastering was also carried out on an album by **David Halcrow**, and live recordings of a **Lau** concert in Belfast were mixed at Mareel for future release. Various small-scale jobs were carried out for return clients, including digitisation of reel-to-reel tapes, CD duplication and recording of student work for portfolios.



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Case Study:

Summer Dance Intensives

This summer marked the return of our Summer Dance Intensives, led by Shetland-born dancer and choreographer **Kathryn Spence**. She ran one beginner-level week and one intermediate-level week for young people aged 11 and up, culminating in our celebration of dance - Just Dance.

The following is an excerpt from Kathryn's [blog](#):

"Shetland Summer

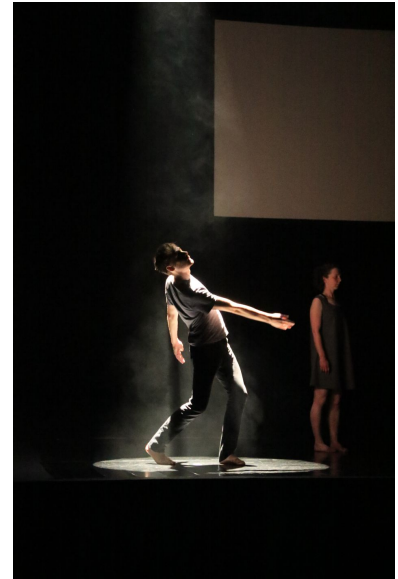
Shetland is my favourite place in the world. And dance is my favourite thing to do in the world. So I combined the two, in partnership with Shetland Arts.

The Summer sessions began with Dance Intensives, aimed at ages 11 and up. There was a beginner and an intermediate session, and together we made a dance film (screen dance) and a choreography. Check out the [beginner's](#) and [intermediate's](#) films.

I was lucky enough to be interviewed for Shetland Life, a tremendous Shetland magazine that looks at the lives of islanders and what it is like to be from or on Shetland. This was great for publicity, and I am very grateful for their coverage.

The days are full on. With technique, creative tasks and choreography to get through, and I was amazed at the perseverance and dedication all the young people showed. There were returners from last year, and newbies too, and together we danced and had some fun!

The films and the choreographies were shared at the Just Dance Showcase, in Mareel's main auditorium. And to my delight, this was an incredibly busy event – a sell out! Dance is so accessible on the Scottish mainland; there are youth companies a plenty and dance classes to attend and performances to view. Dance is part of the Scottish school curriculum and I believe it is important for young people to access quality provision, and that this can directly impact their learning capacity as well as benefitting their learning on the Curriculum for Excellence. There are a few, great privately run dance schools in Shetland, and it was a real pleasure to see the amazing work that they are getting up to. 'Just Dance' aims to bring dance together, and it does just that. We bowed all together at the end of the show, which was a real marvel, and an



opportunity to thank the teachers, the pupils and all of the work that has gone into putting on such an extravaganza.

It is so important that dance happens in Shetland. There is a want for it, and I am always delighted when Shetland Arts employ for freelance for the Summer Dance Intensives, and provide a performance opportunity for myself, and other local choreographers and dance teachers to present work. It doesn't just provide opportunity for us, but it also allows locals to view contemporary dance in an accessible manner (alongside community works) and brings artists to Shetland.



Extracts from Jeff Merrifield's review of the performance for the Shetland Times

"Kathryn worked collaboratively with the local dancers to ensure all have ownership of the pieces created, using a combination of her choreography experience and ideas from participants. This was indeed an ideal opportunity to get involved with the creative process and to have ideas heard and put into dance.

The beginners and starters were up first. This is, indeed, dance at an intensive level and the young dancers coped with it admirably.

"There were moments of balance and tension, with two dancers at one point falling towards each other and each catching the other. This was an experience, a shared journey of emotions and intimate knowledges. I have seen many fine experimental dance groups in my time, Martha Graham, Merce Cunningham and Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker, dancing to the music of Steve Reich. I'd put tonight's experience of the Kathryn Spence dance troupe up there with these greats. It was a memorable finale to a memorable night. A very appreciative 'well done' to all those who had taken part in Just Dance. More of this, please." (Jeff Merrifield)



Case Study: Screenplay

This year marked the 11th year of our annual film festival, with over 100 events including screenings, lectures, workshops and more over 10 days. The festival, curated by **Mark Kermode**, **Linda Ruth Williams** and **Kathy Hubbard**, celebrated the best of cinema with an eclectic mix of local, national and international films and guests.

You can watch the Screenplay trailer here - <https://youtu.be/owZJxy5sFy8>

- Total audience: 4560
- Total participations: 795
- Total practitioners supported: 54
- Total volunteer hours: 734



George practicing his Shetland dialect



We had the pleasure this year of welcoming several guests to Shetland. **Bill Nighy** visited with his producer **Stephen Woolley**, and he thrilled the sell-out audience at *Limehouse Golem* with this dry humour and hilarious tales of working in the industry. The lovely **George Mackay** was a delight, with a Q&A after a screening of *Pride* (sponsored by UNISON), joining in on a packed Saturday afternoon sing-a-long showing of *Sunshine on Leith*, and also getting to grips with Shetland dances in the Mareel Cafe/Bar later that evening.

We were also delighted to welcome fantastic British director **Hope Dickson-Leach** to the festival, with a screening of her film *The Levelling*, and the incredible **Professor Phil Scraton** visited with the documentary *Hillsborough*, followed by the most emotional Q&A session Screenplay has seen.

Screenplay introduced a new strand this year; **First Time Features**. As a supporter of new films and up-and-coming filmmakers, we invited three directors to screen their first feature films at the festival. **Jonathan Murphy** and **Tom Nicoll** both visited the festival and **Justin Oakey** conducted a Q&A via Skype. All sessions were interesting and informative, especially for the

ambitious local filmmakers in the audience. We also screened a brilliant short film *Soul Song* with Q&A by director/writer **Lucy Catherine**.

"We had a really fantastic week seeing the great selection of films that were programmed, and of course getting to see our own film on the big screen was quite the experience. It was the first time I have showed a feature of mine at a festival and I don't know how it could have been a much better experience." (Tom Nicoll)

We had our usual popular strand **Look North**, screening films set in Finland, Sweden, Faroe and a music documentary filmed at our very own Eshaness, and we also screened a collection of Fur and Feathers films from across the world, telling animal stories from Spain, Istanbul, USA and Mongolia.



Co-Curator Kathy Hubbard with local filmmakers Liz Musser and Stephen Mercer (left), Q&A (right)

Our **Screenplay Education Programme**, which has been building slowly for the last few years, has increased hugely in popularity. We screened a variety of fantastic films to around 1,200 young people, and through our partnership with **Discovery Film Festival** in Dundee we were able to provide teachers with classroom activities and materials to go along with the film. We also offered all schools workshops with filmmaker and NC Film tutor and filmmaker **Liz Musser** after the screenings to explore the themes of the films, which were enjoyed by children and teachers alike.

"Brilliant! Brilliant! Brilliant! We have all thought the festival was exceptional. Pupils loved it. Our reviews from Secrets of War are sooo good! Thanks for pulling this together and to Shetland Arts for making it possible for our pupils to attend. Workshops were fab and the resources very well put together. Film ages pitched perfectly." (Helen Robertson, Hamnavoe Primary School)

These family films were also screened for the public and were enjoyed by all ages. As well as the different film strands, Shetland audiences were also treated to two madcap film quizzes, a creative writing workshop around film memories and a screening of archive films from the **Major**

Minor Cinema Project, The Great Poster Giveaway, a fascinating lecture about film classification from the **BBFC**, a workshop on documentary filmmaking from the **Scottish Documentary Institute**, a Terminator 2 special 3D edition on Judgement Day itself, and we finished off the festival with the classic *Some Like It Hot*.

But the highlight of the festival every year continues to be our **Homemade** section. We screened 19 short films (under 4 minutes long) by creative Shetlanders of all ages and abilities, as well as four longer films by more experienced local filmmakers. There was also a chance to see **Shetland Youth Theatre's** *In The Still of the Night Have We Wept*, filmed by **JJ Jamieson** and with a Q&A with the director and participants, and an incredibly popular screening of JJ's new documentary *North Star*, about the old cinema in Lerwick. We were also able to host filmpoets **Roseanne Watt** and **Bruce Eunson** for a lovely session of poetry and film.

Audience and participant comments

- *"I think Screenplay is a massive plus for Shetland"*
- *"Feel privileged in having the opportunity to hear Prof Phil Scraton speak, amazing human being"*
- *"It was wonderful to have folk like Bill Nighy and Phil Scraton involved. Wonderful people"*
- *"Screenplay is established in the Shetland programme of cultural events - it would leave a huge gap if it didn't happen"*
- *"Thank you to everyone who makes it possible"*

Guest comments

- *"It is not quite like any other festival I have experienced anywhere in the world - it really is very special!"*
- *"A brilliant event run by wonderful folk."*
- *"The response we received was really really good and a big boost to the project. It was really nice to be part of Screenplay too and it is clearly an important and special festival! We are very grateful and we will be back!"*
- *"Everything we encountered from the food, the hotel, the unique location and of course the welcoming Shetlanders was perfect. I hope the festival goes from strength to strength."*
- *"Thank you so much for having me, and for such a wonderful few days; it truly has been a brilliant experience. Everyone has been so kind and welcoming, and I have learned so much about Shetland culture, as well as life in general being amongst you all."*



Press articles

- [Shetnews: Film Attendances Up at 'Tremendous' Screenplay](#)
- [Shetland Times: Screenplay kicks off with parade to cinema](#)
- [Shetland Times: Podcast Review](#)
- [BBC: Actors Line Up for Screenplay film festival in Shetland](#)
- [The National: Shetland's film festival Screenplay 'better than Cannes', says critic Mark Kermode](#)
- [The Cinematologists: Podcast Episode 51 Screenplay Film Festival](#)
- [Reverse Shot Feature: Treasure Islands](#)

Key Performance Indicators	Concerts, Screenings, Exhibition Days						Audience attendances						Development Sessions						Participations					
Priority Area of Activity	Q1 Total	Jul	Aug	Sep	Q2 Total	Current Actual	Q1 Total	Jul	Aug	Sep	Q2 Total	Current Actual	Q1 Total	Jul	Aug	Sep	Q2 Total	Current Actual	Q1 Total	Jul	Aug	Sep	Q2 Total	Current Actual
1. Youth Arts	3	0	0	0	0	3	202	0	0	0	0	202	14	30	2	7	39	53	284	280	8	82	370	654
2. Education & Learning	1	0	0	0	0	1	78	0	0	0	0	78	234	0	9	154	163	397	1465	0	37	899	936	2401
3. Arts & Well-being	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	19	6	10	35	52	195	54	27	30	111	306
4. Development & Support	85	31	31	31	93	178	5474	2383	2141	2141	6665	12139	56	12	3	26	41	97	711	378	346	216	940	1651
5. Programme, Commissioning & C	1107	406	383	367	1156	2263	44874	20806	17379	14744	52929	97803	40	11	176	6	193	233	1814	217	1422	27	1666	3480
6. Broadcast, Recording & IP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	10	5	12	27	64	50	0	0	0	0	50
Programme Total	1196	437	414	398	1249	2,445	50628	23189	19520	16885	59594	110,222	398	82	201	215	498	896	4519	929	1840	1254	4023	8,542
SCT Annual Target KPI						3,000						160,000						1,300						9,000