

Consultation Questions

Local Cultural entitlements

1. Do you think that developing local cultural entitlements will help to increase participation in cultural activities?

Yes

INCREASING PARTICIPATION IN THE PERFORMING ARTS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE In the Culture Bill we have a real opportunity to enhance the lives of all our citizens. By building cultural entitlements

Additional Comments:

into their strategic community planning process Local Authorities can increase participation in cultural activity for people in Scotland. The Scottish Executive's aims to support talent and excellence in culture for the positive impact it can have in every area of our society is warmly welcomed. And in the First Minister's own words "the best place to start is with our children, from the earliest age we must give them the chance to express themselves, in art, dance, drama, music and sport." We fully support the First Minister and urge the Executive to make clear in its guidance that is in favour of an entitlement for children to experience the highest possible quality cultural activity. The performing arts can have a powerful and meaningful impact on children and young people's lives and provide life long benefits. As Professor Maggie Kinloch stated on The Importance of Theatre and Performance to the Development of the Child, children need theatre because:

- It stimulates their creativity
- It helps them make sense of their emotions; it develops their ability to understand
- It allows them to face their fears in a safe environment
- It challenges their preconceptions about the world in which they live. It helps them interrogate their world; see it as a 3D place
- It develops their aesthetic sense
- It develops their language and communication skills and
- It introduces new ideas to them and allows them to express opinions about them

In short, theatre provides an immediate, intimate and exciting way to have a discussion with children about their place in this world, about their lives and the lives of others. We feel very strongly that when developing cultural entitlements, particularly in relation to children and young people, consideration must be given to the quality of the cultural activity. It would be a lost opportunity and potentially damaging to our children's development if cultural entitlements only consider increased levels of participation without taking the quality of the experience centrally into account. In the Children and Young People's performing arts sector, committed artists and practitioners are in a key position to work with and support The Executive's aim to place culture at the heart of every child's development. To achieve this shared aim, local and national strategies and plans must engage those who can create high quality experiences. If the executive

	<p>truly wants to inspire, challenge and encourage Scotland's children and young people those strategies and plans must identify and target resources to deliver the highest quality provision. Funding Models for comparison In Scotland, we currently have 5 Flexible Funded Companies dedicated to the performing arts for children and young people whereas in Wales, with a population of 3 million, there are 8 companies dedicated to creating work for children and young people. With average funding of £240,000 per company per year, around 30 new productions are created in Wales every year. In Denmark, with a population of 5.5 million, there are over 55 funded companies providing high quality performing arts for children and young people for around £7.5 million a year. As a result, one in four audience members are children. Scotland should aspire to match these countries and develop its structures and resources accordingly. Without such a commitment, the introduction of cultural entitlements will mean very little. We should be aware that merely increasing attendance at events by artists or companies that are under resourced or who operate solely from a commercial basis may inhibit rather than stimulate children's development. An explicit commitment to quality and resource provision has to be central to the implementation of these ideas. Imagine would welcome the opportunity to support the Scottish Executive in developing a quality assurance framework in this important area based on our extensive working experience in this sector.</p>
	<p>The Culture Bill will only be successful if Creative Scotland, the local authorities and the arts community work effectively together, creating structures and frameworks that allow the highest quality work to flourish and maximise the impact of the cultural entitlements offered. If these structures and frameworks are effectively realised then Imagine believes there are a number of additional measures that could be implemented to ensure a positive cultural experience for our children and young people. These include: Training and support Imagine welcomes the Scottish Executive's continued funding of the Cultural Coordinators scheme. This scheme, along with the increasing number of Creative Links Officers across Scotland is</p>

2. If you believe further or alternative measures are necessary, what are they?

having a significant impact on our children and young people's access to and enjoyment of cultural activity. The Executive and local authorities should build on that strong basis. Imagine currently runs a Professional Development Scheme for cultural coordinators and teachers to help increase their knowledge and understanding of the children's performing arts sector in Scotland and increase their confidence and motivation in getting the best from the performing arts. We believe that teachers and cultural coordinators need this type of ongoing support and training to ensure that our children and young people have a positive experience of the performing arts. Consideration must be given to the skills and ongoing development of our educators and we would welcome the opportunity to discuss future plans and ambitions for this scheme with The Scottish Executive and local authorities to link it in with the development of cultural entitlements. Access Cultural Entitlements must also take into consideration aspects of access to cultural activity and in doing so address the barriers that exist to access. From Imagine's extensive work with schools we know that transport is one of the biggest barriers that schools face in relation to cultural visits. Imagine currently runs a bus subsidy scheme which is welcomed and well utilised by schools across Scotland. We would urge the Scottish Executive to look at travel subsidy schemes like Imagine's as a model for developing and implementing a long term, strategic scheme for children, young people and citizens across Scotland.

3. How do you think the Scottish Executive and local authorities can best utilise the influence and impact of cultural activity?

With the development of 'A Curriculum for Excellence' and the proposal to strengthen the roles of Creative Links Officers, Cultural Coordinators and Active School Co-ordinators we have an ideal opportunity to support the development of our children by ensuring that quality cultural provision is at the heart of our young people's development. Again, the Executive must clarify the structures, frameworks and objectives of the Culture Bill to ensure that the cultural community works effectively and dynamically with the education sector. With the wealth of new and existing talent ready to use their skill and passion for the benefit of children and young people throughout Scotland, our sector is ideally placed to deliver cultural entitlements that will

	positively and profoundly affect the development of our children. Imagine looks forward to working with The Scottish Executive and its key stakeholders to contribute to a quality assurance framework for local cultural provision that embraces national cultural standards.
4. Do you think the initial draft guidance under Part 1 of the Culture Bill is clear and helpful? Is there anything else it should contain?	
Is there anything else it should contain?	

Creative Scotland

5. Do you agree that there should be a single national cultural development body?	
Additional Comments:	
6. Do you agree with the remit proposed for Creative Scotland?	
Additional Comments:	
Has it the right powers and functions?	
Additional Comments:	
7. Do you agree that Creative Scotland should work in concert with the Scottish Executive to implement national cultural policy?	
Additional Comments:	

National Collections

8. Do you agree that the National Collections should remain as constitutionally separate centres of excellence?	
Additional Comments:	
9. Do you think the powers and functions proposed for the Collections in the draft Bill are right?	
If not, how would you improve them?	
10. What do you think of the name 'National Record of Scotland'?	

11. Do you agree that the Faculty of Advocates should be able to contribute to the board of the National Library by having at least one representative?	
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Additional Comments:	
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12. Do you agree that the Collections have the appropriate powers to obtain, loan and dispose of objects for or from their collections?	
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If not, what would you change?	
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Dealing with tainted cultural objects

13. Do you agree that an offence similar to that in the 2003 Act should be introduced in Scotland?	
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Additional Comments:	
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Powers of local authorities to broadcast information

14. Do you agree local authorities should have a general power to broadcast information about their activities?	
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Additional Comments:	
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15. Do you think it is necessary to give authorities this power in this Bill, or should local authorities be left to rely on 'the power to advance well-being' in section 20 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003?	
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