

**Matthews B (Barry)**




**From:** Joe Gibbs [joe@belladrum.co.uk]  
**Sent:** 13 February 2007 10:08  
**To:** Cultural Bill Consultation  
**Subject:** Ref Draft Culture Bill Response

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I am concerned that the role of regional independent arts organisations is not recognised in the Draft Culture Bill. In the Highland region, with its remit from our regional enterprise organisation, our own such organisation Hi-arts plays a far larger part in the cultural community than our local council, Highland Council; neither does Highland Council provide Hi-arts with any funding. In my experience, dedicated arts organisations such as Hi-arts have their fingers on the pulse on local arts needs far more than local councils. Hi-arts has helped spawn and support many local arts initiatives, large and small, and has provided very valuable ancillary services like The Booth's which has opened up internet ticketing abilities to small organisations which would not ordinarily be able to afford such a facility or the fees of the larger ticketing companies. That is just one example.

With the constant competing pressures on local authority budgets, I would not reckon on the arts remaining 'safe in their hands' for long. Furthermore, I would counsel against any further centralisation of arts support in Scotland. In the Highlands, we are already suffering from the results of a central diktat producing an artificial over-supply of competing events and thus threatening existing events in our region, presumably through lack of knowledge of local needs and capabilities. This situation would not have arisen if decisions had been taken locally.

Joe Gibbs, Festival Director, Belladrum Tartan Heart Festival; Director, Rock Ness Ltd.

	
BELLADRUM TARTAN HEART FESTIVAL - August 10th & 11th 2007	
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