

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING: 7th June 2016

11am, Tuesday 7th June 2016

Northern Ireland Screen, Alfred House, Alfred Street, Belfast

Present: Rotha Johnston (Chairwoman), Michael Kuhn, Laurence McKeown, Adeline Dinsmore, Fiona MacMillan, Aodán MacPóilin, Tim McKane, Elaine Sperber, Greg Maguire, Jennifer Johnston, James Penny

In attendance: Richard Williams (CEO), Linda Martin (Director of Finance and Corporate Services), Andrew Reid (Head of Production – via phone), Bernard McCloskey (Head of Education), Aine Walsh (Head of ILBF), Sinead McCartan, Tracey Walsh (Invest NI – Observer)

Apologies: Mike Catto, Ian Parsley, Moyra Lock (Head of Marketing)

Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

1.0 Minutes of the Board meeting of 11th March 2016

1.2 The minutes of the March meeting were agreed, signed and the action points reviewed.

2.0 Chairwoman's business

2.1 The Chairwoman advised the Board that Northern Ireland Screen would formally respond to the consultation on Programme for Government and that a draft would be sent to the Board for input and review.

2.2 The mid-term review of *Opening Doors* strategy is scheduled to start in August with the Department for the Economy chairing the review.

2.3 Northern Ireland Screen will begin consulting with industry and other stakeholders on a new strategy around the same time with a view to developing a strategy in time for an approval process that will begin in June 2017.

2.2 Belfast Harbour Studio construction has commenced. A live web-link will be available to prospective clients and will be sent to Board members to track progress.

3.0 CEO's Report

3.2 CEO indicated that Northern Ireland Screen's submission to the Programme for Government consultation should be a bold statement of the potential of the Screen Industries.

- 3.3 He noted that the USBF evaluation was progressing and that the evaluation would be reviewed by the USBF Committee shortly. The ILBF will also conduct a review towards the end of this financial year.

3.4

- 3.5 Chair and CEO met with Sir Kenneth Branagh last week who expressed a wish to work in Northern Ireland.

4.0 Finance, Audit and Governance

- 4.1 Fiona MacMillan updated the Board on the recent Audit and Risk Committee meeting and commended the finance team for a clean audit report.
- 4.2 The Board agreed that full transparency should be continued for related party transactions in future years, which is beyond the statutory requirements.
- 4.3 The Scheme of Delegation was approved subject to replacing references to DCAL with Department for the Economy.
- 4.4 CEO outlined the summary of changes in the Risk Register noting the cyclical funding risk associated with Invest NI funding; that the infrastructure risk has reduced with Belfast Harbour Studios; that the transitional arrangements with department changes were going well, however the MSFM was yet to be agreed. Pressures on public finances in general continue to be a risk factor. The Board approved the risk register.
- 4.6 The CEO presented the Bi-Annual Assurance Statement to the Board noting that there would always be a correlation between performance targets and budget.
- 4.7 The Chair updated the Board on the Strategic Resources Committee. The staff survey is ready to share with staff and showed a very encouraging position. Office facilities continue to be an issue and this will be reviewed in anticipation of a capital improvement bid to update the facilities through October monitoring.
- 4.8 The Board will extend their thanks in writing to Marian who is leaving under the VES scheme in June.

5.0 Committee Updates

- 5.1 EPWG – Adeline Dinsmore noted her concerns, with education budgets under constant pressure, around teacher professional development in general and the effect this will have on teacher skills in the use of moving image and related technologies.

Bernard McCloskey informed the Board that the bid to the Creative Europe Audience Development Fund, Pathways to Film Literacy project was unsuccessful. This was a very disappointing result.

- 5.2 Investment Committee – Michael Kuhn noted the Investment Committee decisions in the CEO's Report. He also made a number of recommendations

to the Board - taking a pro-active approach to the UK producers of large-scale projects; circulating more screen content for the Board to see the actual output; and for the Board to see more activity in person.

A discussion ensued, Elaine Sperber offered a set visit to Millie Inbetween at Blackstaff Studios and the next Board meeting may be held at Belfast Harbour Studios.

Andrew Reid reported on the planned trip to Los Angeles for meetings with Lionsgate, Paramount, Netflix, Weinsteins, Marvista, Disney, Fox, Sony, ABC and CNN Films.

- 5.3 ILBF – The ILBF is hosting a commissioning event this week for local production companies with representatives from RTÉ, TG4 and BBC NI attending. We are currently recruiting for 6 New Entrant trainees to commence a year-long training scheme in September, and we are in discussions with the sector regarding training needs in other areas. We will be supporting 3 Irish language producers to attend MIPCOM in October. We are co-ordinating the event in conjunction with MG Alba who will also be supporting the attendance of 3 Gaidhlig producers.
- 5.4 USBF – There was a further short report on the evaluation of the USBF and the BBC's similar evaluation. The BBC's intention to appoint an Ulster-Scots Executive was welcomed.
- 5.5 Skills Panel and Training – The CEO noted the success and range of the Aim High Training schemes and suggested that we might consider shifting more resources into the Aim High training schemes given their success.

The Irish Film Board and Northern Ireland Screen met at Cannes and may explore a skills application to European funding.

6 Any Other Business

- 8.1 There was no AOB.

7 Presentations

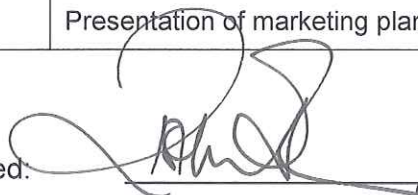
- 9.1 Meabh McAffrey-Lau presented on Digiskills and Jennifer Johnston presented on Into Film. The Marketing Plan presentation was postponed.

8 Date of Next Meeting

- 9.1 The next Board meeting is presently scheduled for Tuesday 13th September 2016 at 11am.

<i>Point</i>	<i>Detail</i>	<i>To be actioned by</i>
2.1	Draft of formal response to Programme for Government consultation sent to Board for input and review	CEO
2.2	Send Belfast Harbour Studios live web-link to Board members	
4.8	Extend thanks to Marian Clarke de Monreal who is leaving under the VES	
5.2	Organise a Board set visit to Millie Inbetween at Blackstaff Studios	Moyra Lock/ Elaine Sperber
9.1	Presentation of marketing plan postponed to next meeting	Moyra Lock

Signed:



Date:

13 September 2016