

Chris Hodgkins - British Council Freedom of Information Enquiry 30th January 2018 to the 13th March 2018

-----Original Message-----

From: British Council [<mailto:IGDisclosures@britishcouncil.org>]

Sent: 30 January 2018 01:25

To: IG Disclosures

Subject: Form submission from: Information Request Form

Submitted on Tuesday 30 January 2018 - 01:25 Submitted by user:

Submitted values are:

Full name: Chris Hodgkins

Full name of organisation: Self-employed musician/composer/broadcaster/writer etc.

Telephone number (see notes above): 0208 840 4643

Contact Address (postal or e-mail): chris.hodgkins3@gmail.com

Description of the information you require. Please provide as much detail as possible (see notes above).:

What explicit strategy or strategies does the British Council have in place to export under-represented music's in England such as jazz and folk music? What funding schemes are available and what is the total allocation of monies for each scheme?

Many thanks for your help

Please tell us how you would like to receive the information: Electronic copies

Other:

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On 13 February 2018 at 14:52, IGDisclosures@britishcouncil.org <IGDisclosures@britishcouncil.org> wrote:

Case Reference: FOI_2018_09

13 February 2018

Dear Mr Hodgkins

Thank you for your request for information dated 30 January 2018 concerning British Council strategies on exporting under-represented music's in England such as jazz and folk music. Your request has been handled under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000 and has been passed to me for reply.

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We create friendly knowledge and understanding between the people of the UK and other countries. We make a positive contribution to the UK and the countries we work with, changing lives by creating opportunities, building connections and engendering trust, using the cultural resources of the UK such as art, sport, education, science, culture, language, innovation, and creativity. This enhances the security, prosperity and influence of the UK.

We do not work with export and do not have export funding schemes, though we do work for the benefit of the arts sector in the UK, including the music sector.

One of the ways that Arts contributes to the mission of the British Council is by sharing UK arts with the world - introducing audiences around the world to the best of UK creativity, and creating new opportunities for artists and organizations to work internationally, with an emphasis on mutuality and collaboration. We often work in partnership with other organizations and funding bodies, such as Arts Council England and the PRSF <http://prsfoundation.com/about-us/>

We engage across the spectrum of music genres, such as jazz and folk mentioned in your letter – to which could be added contemporary classical music, grime, sound art and electronica – and this can involve supporting artists to travel overseas. However, our support mainly goes to projects in which there is an opportunity for collaboration and mutual exchange.

I hope the following examples will help to illustrate some of the ways we work (they are not exhaustive). You mention England specifically in your question, though since we work on behalf of the whole of the UK, I have included examples from outside of England too.

The Musicians in Residence China programme which we run in partnership with the PRSF gives musicians the opportunity to travel to China and spend up to six weeks in a city to experience a new culture, create new work, to work with local musicians and experience a new international audience. The programme started in 2012, and among the musicians who have benefitted Gareth Bonello, Imogen Heap, Bella Hardy, Mira Calix, Ollie Coates, Kerry Andrews, Matthew Bourne, Arun Ghosh, David Lyttle, and Quinta. See here for more information: <http://music.britishcouncil.org/projects/musicians-in-residence-china>

Folk Nation was a project which brought together folk musicians from England, Wales and Scotland with their counterparts in India and Bangladesh to make new work which resulted in tours of both the UK and India.

In 2016 we supported Scottish folk band Dallahan to partner with Nepalese artists Katumba for performances in Nepal

<http://music.britishcouncil.org/news-and-features/2016-05-18/dallahan-kutumba-in-nepal>.

In February 2018 we supported the project 'Pipes and Ney Anban – An exploration of piping in Scotland and Iran' which brought together piper David Shedden and violin player Graham MacKenzie with The Lian Band from Iran at Celtic Connections in Glasgow.

We also bring in promoters, festival directors, journalists and other professionals from many countries overseas to see the best of UK music at festivals around the country. Festivals have included the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, London International Jazz Festival, Celtic Connections, Convergence, the Great Escape. Many invitations for co-productions, co-commissions, and for artists to travel abroad result from these initiatives.

The ecology for support for UK music and musicians overseas is complex, and we recently commissioned and published research to help the sector understand who does what in this domain. There are organizations that support export, including DIT, British Underground (<http://www.britishunderground.net/>) and PRSF, with the last two supporting under-represented genres to travel to international showcases overseas. We also convene all the music sector organizations active in this sphere on a regular basis to share news and developments, and to ensure we are supporting and not duplicating each other's work. The research is available here: <http://music.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/Going-International-Report-2016.pdf>

There is one general arts scheme run from China co-funded by British Council China and the Scottish Government to which musicians can apply – Connections Through Culture, China (annual spend £40,000: four rounds and four grants of £2,500 for each round). This supports artists and organizations to travel to China to develop projects face-to-face with their collaborators.

The British Council has also co-funded with Arts Council England the Artists International Development Fund since 2012 (with a British Council contribution of £200,000 in 2016-17, and a contribution of £200,000 already contributed in 2017-18 with a further £250,000 planned before the end of this financial year, so totalling £450,000). This is administered by Arts Council England and supports English artists to travel, explore and collaborate internationally, and develop markets and audiences overseas for their work. Many musicians have benefited from this fund.

I hope that this information is helpful, not only regarding support from the British Council, but also from the other organizations in the UK working in international music and export.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Information Governance Advisor (Disclosures)
Information Governance and Risk Management

British Council
Bridgewater House
[58 Whitworth Street](#)
[Manchester](#)
[M1 6BB](#)
Email: IGDisclosures@britishcouncil.org

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner for a decision at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Phone: 0303 123 1113
Website: www.ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Redacted Information Governance Advisor (Disclosures) | Information Governance and Risk Management Team
IGDisclosures@britishcouncil.org

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/organisation/transparency/freedom-information>

From: Chris Hodgkins [mailto:chrishodgkins3@gmail.com]
Sent: 13 February 2018 16:24
To: IG_Disclosures
Subject: Re: Request for information (FOI_2018_09)

Dear Redacted

Many thanks for the British Council's response to my FOI question.

My question was: "What explicit strategy or strategies does the British Council have in place to export under-represented music's in England such as jazz and folk music? What funding schemes are available and what is the total allocation of monies for each scheme?"

For the avoidance of doubt could you please confirm that the British Council does not have an export strategy in place for under-represented music.

Secondly as far as I can compute the amount of money the British Council spent on funding schemes is as follows:

Connections Through Culture, China - 2017/2018 financial year - £40,000

Artists International Development Fund - 2017/2018 financial year - £200,000 plus an additional £250,000 producing a total of £450,000 in the financial year 2017/2018

So far this produces a total of ££490,000 in the financial year 2017/2018

The Musicians in Residence China programme which we run in partnership with the PRSF - no details of funds supplied for 2017/2018

What amounts of funding were spent on the case studies/illustrations above? Were they part of existing British Council funding schemes or ad hoc ventures?

Very many thanks for your help in this matter. It is greatly appreciated.

Kindest regards

Chris

From: **IGDisclosures@britishcouncil.org** <IGDisclosures@britishcouncil.org>
Date: 14 February 2018 at 16:38
Subject: RE: Request for information (FOI_2018_09)
To: Chris Hodgkins <chrishodgkins3@gmail.com>

Dear Chris

I am sorry that our response may not have been clear however I can confirm that we do not have an export strategy in place to export under-represented music's in England as we do not work with export and therefore do not have export funding schemes.

We provided you with some information, including financial information, on other Arts schemes however they were not export schemes. If you would like us to provide you with the amounts of funding that were spent on the 'other Arts schemes' mentioned in our response and explain if they were part of existing British Council funding schemes or ad hoc ventures then we would treat that as a new request as it is different from your original request, which was primarily about export strategies and schemes.

Could you please confirm if you would like us to go ahead and treat this as a new request?

Kind regards

Redacted Information Governance Advisor (Disclosures) | Information Governance and Risk Management Team
IGDisclosures@britishcouncil.org

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/organisation/transparency/freedom-information>

From: **IGDisclosures@britishcouncil.org** <IGDisclosures@britishcouncil.org>
Date: 13 March 2018 at 11:49
Subject: RE: Request for information (FOI_2018_14)
To: Chris Hodgkins <chrishodgkins3@gmail.com>

Case Reference: FOI_2018_14

13 March 2018

Dear Chris

Thank you for your request for information concerning music schemes and the monies allocated for each scheme. Your request has been handled under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000 and has been passed to me for reply.

The only initiative that we consider to be a 'funding scheme' is the Musicians in Residence China. This is supported annually by £22,000 from the British Council, £15,000 from our partner, PRSF and help in kind from partners in China. .

The other projects mentioned in our original response were:

Folk Nations residency: £30,000

Scottish folk band Dallahan to partner with Nepalese artists Katumba for performances in Nepal: £7,000

Pipes and Ney Anban: £7,000

I hope the information provided has been useful however if you would like to discuss this in more detail our Director Music, Cathy Graham, would be happy for you to attend one of her team meetings so that they can answer your questions with more depth and background. If you would like to take Cathy up on this offer you can contact her directly on:

T: [REDACTED]

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Information Governance Advisor (Disclosures)
Information Governance and Risk Management
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[Manchester](#)
[M1 6BB](#)
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The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Phone: 0303 123 1113
Website: www.ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Redacted Information Governance Advisor (Disclosures) | Information Governance and Risk Management Team
IGDisclosures@britishcouncil.org

From: IG_Disclosures
Sent: 15 February 2018 13:56
To: 'Chris Hodgkins'
Subject: RE: Request for information (FOI_2018_14)

Case Reference: FOI_2018_14

Dear Chris

Thank you for clarifying.

We will look into this straight away and get back to you as soon as possible and no later than 20 working days.

Best wishes

Redacted

From: Chris Hodgkins [<mailto:chrishodgkins3@gmail.com>]
Sent: 15 February 2018 13:29
To: IG_Disclosures
Subject: Re: Request for information (FOI_2018_09)

Dear **Redacted**

Very many thanks for this. My apologies it is probably me being a bit obtuse.

If you could let me have details of all the music schemes and the monies allocated for each scheme that would be marvellous.

Again many thanks for your help it is greatly appreciated.

Kindest regards

Chris

On 15 February 2018 at 11:50, IGDisclosures@britishcouncil.org <IGDisclosures@britishcouncil.org> wrote:
Dear Chris

I apologise for the confusion.

We understood your question about what funding schemes are available and the total monies for each scheme to be related to export schemes as these questions followed on directly from the question about export strategies and therefore appeared to linked.

Are you asking what funding is available for any music schemes and the total allocation of monies for each scheme?

Best wishes

Redacted

From: Chris Hodgkins [mailto:chrishodgkins3@gmail.com]

Sent: 14 February 2018 16:51

To: IG_Disclosures

Subject: Re: Request for information (FOI_2018_09)

Dear **Redacted**

Many thanks for this. My original question was: "*What funding schemes are available and what is the total allocation of monies for each scheme?*" I am only interested in music schemes so if this has to be treated as a new request then please do so. However I thought my original question was straightforward.

Again many thanks for your help in this matter it is greatly appreciated.

Kindest regards

Chris