

# British film, high-end television, animation programmes and video games certification Q1 2015

BFI Research and Statistics Unit

23 April 2015

Note: revised release, on 23 April, updating data for video games that have been given final certification under the cultural test.

## 1. Key Points

- Certification statistics are provided for rolling year, from April 2007 to March 2015 for disclosure reasons associated to Q1 statistics.
- In the last 12 months, April 2014-March 2015, 226 films received final certification, with a UK spend of £925 million and a total budget of £1,340 million.
- Of these 214 were cultural test films, with a UK spend of £889 million and total budget of £1,278 million; 12 films were co-productions, with a UK spend of £36 million and £62 million.
- Since the inception of tax relief regulations for high-end television programmes in April 2013, 55 programmes have received final certification; all under the cultural test. These have a total UK spend of £331 million and a total budget of £372 million. No co-productions have received final certification.
- Since the inception of tax relief regulations for animation programmes in April 2013, a total of 24 programmes have received final certification, all under the cultural test. These have a total UK spend of £24 million and a total budget of £42 million. No co-production have received final certification.
- For the first full year since the start of tax relief for video games, 19 have received certification under the cultural test, with an EEA/UK spend of £14 million and a total budget of £15 million.

## 2. Feature film certification

### 2.1 Certification - numbers of applications and values

#### 2.1.1 Final certifications

This release looks at UK spend, total budget and the number of films certified as British in a rolling year highlighting the changes in the number of applications, UK spend and total budget in 12 month periods, from April 2007 Rolling year data give a broader representation of certification trends. In this release the rolling year period covered is April 2007-March 2008 to April 2014-March 2015. Q1 statistics are shown unless data has been suppressed for disclosure reasons.

The number of final certifications has increased rolling year on rolling year since April 2007, peaking at 226 films in April 2014-March 2015 (Table 1 and Figure 1). Overall, there has been an upward trend for UK spend and budget over the period, with April 2011-March 2012 and April 2013- March 2014 as stand-out years (Figure 2). UK spend increased from £544 million in April 2007- March 2008 to £925 million in April 2014-March 2015. Total budget of films increased from £857 million to £1,340 million. UK spend and budget peaked in April 2011-March 2012 at £1,460 million and £2,117 million respectively and April 2013-March 2014 at £1,483 million and £2,083 million. These periods saw a higher than usual number of UK studio-backed films receive final certification, such as *Les Misérables*, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Parts 1 and 2* and *Johnny English Reborn*.

The number of films receiving final certification under the cultural test in April 2014-March 2015 was 214, with a UK spend of £889 million and a total budget of £1,278 million (both being the third highest in the time period). As with all final certifications, there was an upward trend over the time period in the number of cultural test films, UK spend and budget with April 2011- March 2012 (UK spend at £1,421 million) and April 2013- March 2014 (UK spend at £1,414 million) being stand-out years.

April 2014-March 2015 saw 12 official co-productions receive final certification, with a UK spend of £36 million and £62 million. The number of co-productions and total budget has fluctuated over the time period, whereas UK spend has stayed around £42 million over the period, peaking at £69 million in April 2013-March 2014.

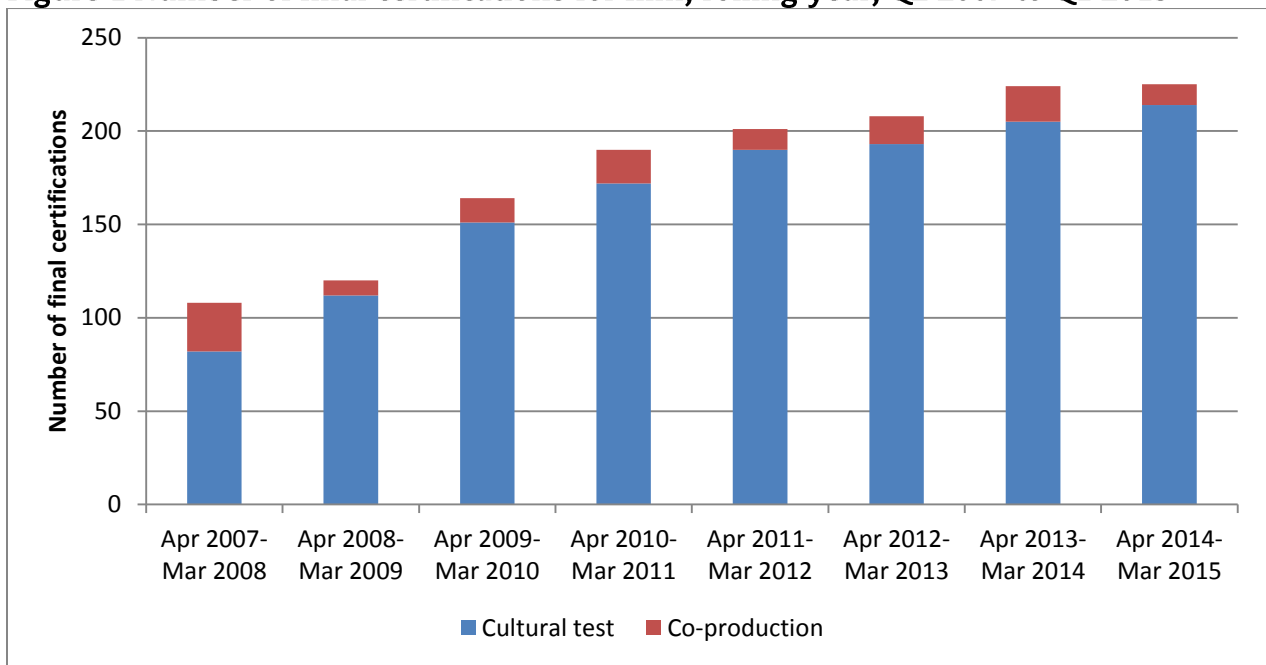
**Table 1 Final certifications for film, rolling year, from Q2 2007 to Q1 2015**

Type of certification	Apr 2007- Mar 2008	Apr 2008- Mar 2009	Apr 2009- Mar 2010	Apr 2010- Mar 2011	Apr 2011- Mar 2012	Apr 2012- Mar 2013	Apr 2013- Mar 2014	Apr 2014- Mar 2015
<b>Cultural Test</b>								
Number	82	112	151	172	190	193	205	214
UK spend £m	495.4	564.8	656.5	697.5	1421.4	753.7	1413.6	888.9
Total budget £m	720.3	828.8	823.7	891.4	2009.8	1074.2	1962.6	1277.8
UK spend as a % of total budget	68.8	68.2	79.7	78.3	70.7	70.2	72.0	69.6
<b>Co-production</b>								
Number	26	8	13	18	11	15	19	12
UK spend £m	48.4	40.0	37.9	49.1	39.0	42.8	69.1	35.8
Total budget £m	136.7	55.2	85.9	122.6	107.6	71.2	120.6	61.8
UK spend as a % of total budget	35.4	72.6	44.1	40.1	36.3	60.2	57.3	57.9
<b>All Types</b>								
Number	108	120	164	190	201	208	224	226
UK spend £m	543.8	604.9	694.4	746.7	1,460.4	796.6	1,482.8	924.7
Total budget £m	857.0	884.0	909.6	1,014.0	2,117.4	1,145.5	2,083.2	1,339.6
UK spend as a % of total budget	63.5	68.4	76.3	73.6	69.0	69.5	71.2	69.0

Source: BFI

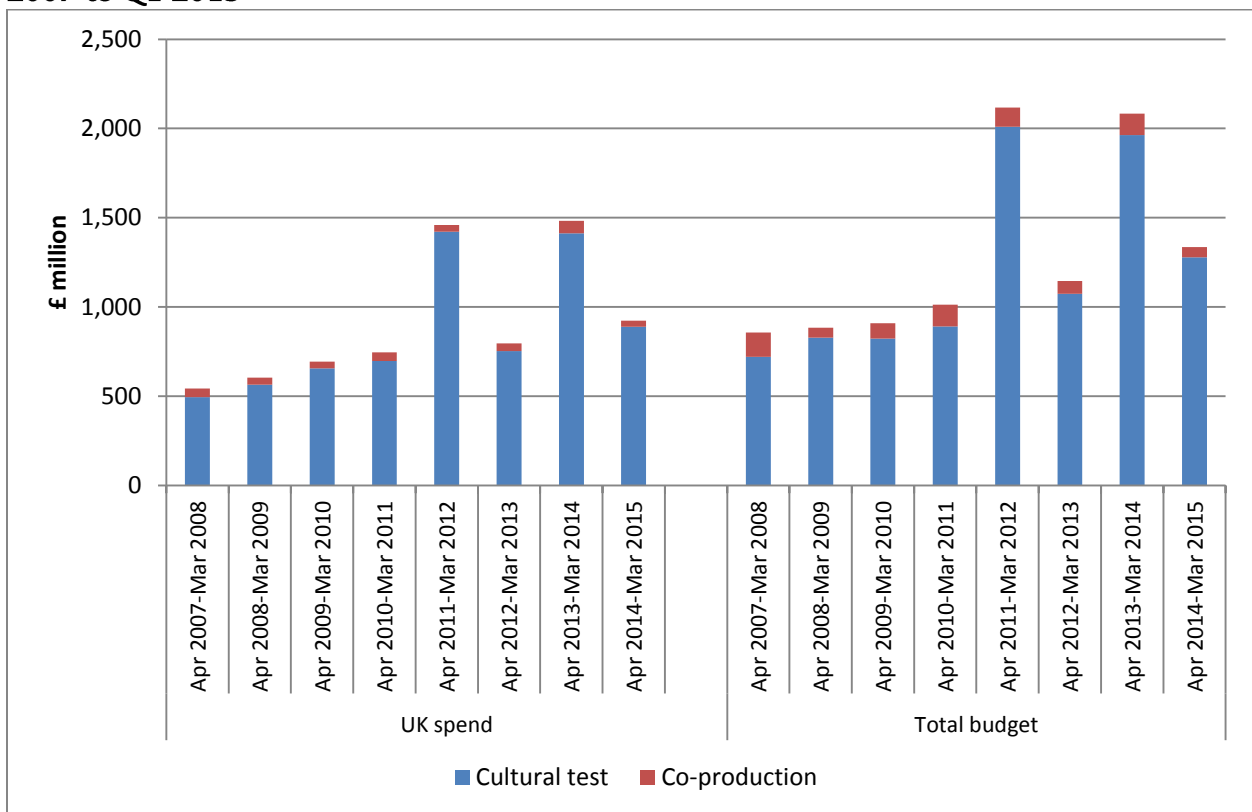
'Total Budget' in the case of cultural test films is the sum of production activity in the UK and production activity outside the UK; in the case of co-production it is the sum of investments made by all participating countries in the film.

**Figure 1 Number of final certifications for film, rolling year, Q2 2007 to Q1 2015**



Source: BFI

**Figure 2 UK spend and total budget of final certifications for film, rolling year, Q2 2007 to Q1 2015**



Source: BFI

'Total Budget' in the case of cultural test films is the sum of production activity in the UK and production activity outside the UK; in the case of co-production it is the sum of investments made by all participating countries in the film.

### **2.1.2 Interim certifications**

The number of films with interim certification increased from 131 films in April 2007-March 2008 to 175 in April 2011- March 2012, and then fluctuated until April 2014-March 2015, which had 201 films (Table 2 and Figure 3). Q1 statistics are shown unless data has been suppressed for disclosure reasons.

For the latest 12 month period, UK spend was £1,202 million, with total budget at £1,785 million (Figure 4). Similar to films with final certification, there were two peak years: April 2009- March 2010 (UK spend at £1,435 million) and April 2011- March 2012 (UK spend at £1,453 million); this anticipates the peak years outlined for final certifications.

There were 188 cultural test films in April 2014-March 2015, down from 194 films in April 2013-March 2014. UK spend was £1,183 million and total budget was £1,718 million. In the overall time period there were two stand out years, April 2009-Q1 2010 and April 2011- March 2012, which anticipate final cultural test UK spend and budget. There were 13 official co-productions that received interim certification in April 2014-March 2014, the lowest of the time period. These films had a UK spend of £19 million and a total budget of £68 million.

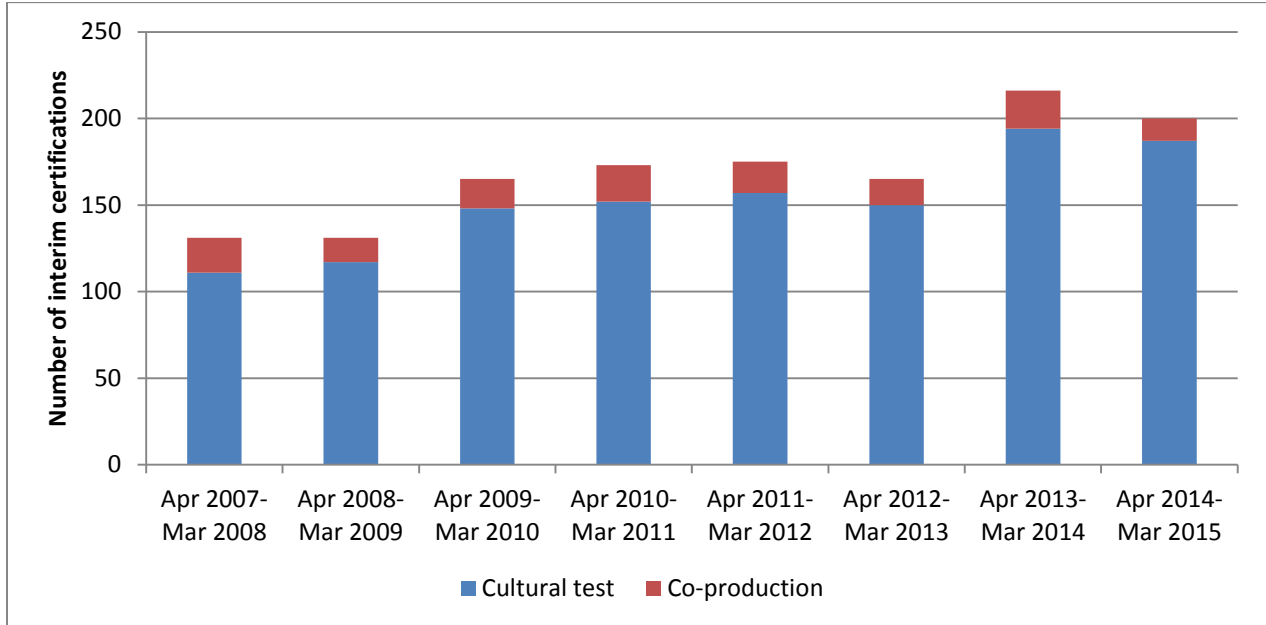
**Table 2 Interim certifications for film, rolling year, from Q2 2007 to Q1 2015**

<b>Type of certification</b>	<b>Apr 2007- Mar 2008</b>	<b>Apr 2008- Mar 2009</b>	<b>Apr 2009- Mar 2010</b>	<b>Apr 2010- Mar 2011</b>	<b>Apr 2011- Mar 2012</b>	<b>Apr 2012- Mar 2013</b>	<b>Apr 2013- Mar 2014</b>	<b>Apr 2014- Mar 2015</b>
<b>Cultural Test</b>								
Number	111	117	148	152	157	150	194	188
UK spend £m	737.2	598.1	1406.7	662.0	1402.5	904.6	959.9	1182.9
Total budget £m	974.6	741.4	1713.5	1041.7	1928.3	1267.1	1302.9	1717.6
UK spend as a % of total budget	75.6	80.7	82.1	63.6	72.7	71.4	73.7	68.9
<b>Co-production</b>								
Number	20	14	17	21	18	15	22	13
UK spend £m	69.5	39.4	28.7	67.1	50.0	41.1	49.1	19.0
Total budget £m	120.0	90.6	78.1	185.5	89.8	79.0	127.8	67.7
UK spend as a % of total budget	57.9	43.5	36.7	36.2	55.7	52.0	38.4	28.1
<b>All Types</b>								
Number	131	131	165	173	175	165	216	201
UK spend £m	806.7	637.5	1,435.4	729.1	1,452.5	945.7	1,009.0	1,201.9
Total budget £m	1,094.6	832.0	1,791.6	1,227.2	2,018.1	1,346.1	1,430.7	1,785.3
UK spend as a % of total budget	73.7	76.6	80.1	59.4	72.0	70.3	70.5	67.3

Source: BFI

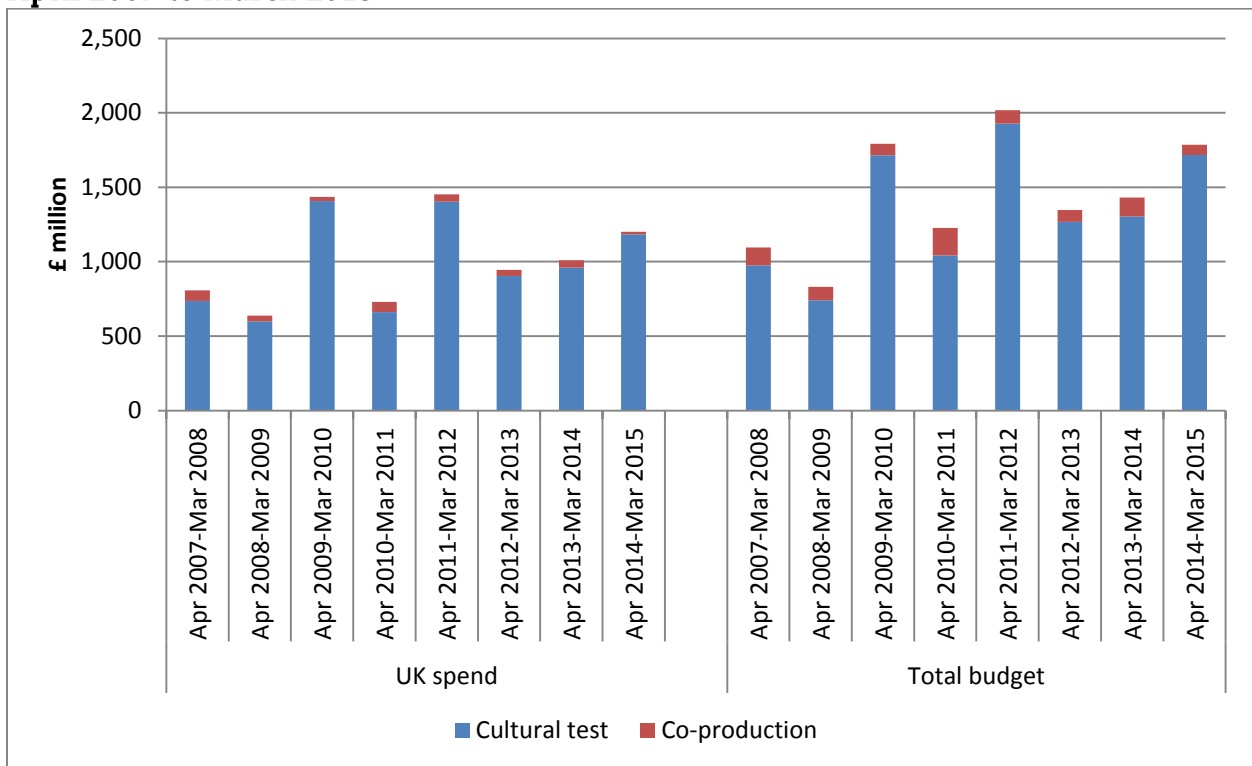
'Total Budget' in the case of cultural test films is the sum of production activity in the UK and production activity outside the UK; in the case of co-production it is the sum of investments made by all participating countries in the film.

**Figure 3 Number of interim certifications for film, rolling year, April 2007 to March 2015**



Source: BFI

**Figure 4 UK spend and total budget of interim certifications for film, rolling year, April 2007 to March 2015**



Source: BFI

'Total Budget' in the case of cultural test films is the sum of production activity in the UK and production activity outside the UK; in the case of co-production it is the sum of investments made by all participating countries in the film.

## 2.2 Total Budgets

The median total budget for films with interim certification is presented by rolling year: April 2007 to March 2015. Previous Q1 releases have provided median budget by calendar year, please see Appendix A for this data.

Median budget has been decreasing from April 2007 to March 2015 for cultural test films qualifying as British; April 2013-March 2014 had the lowest median budget, at £0.7 million (Table 3). Median total budget for April 2014-March 2015 was £0.8 million, being similar to the previous 12 month period. The highest median total budget was in April 2007-March 2008, at £1.7 million.

**Table 3 Median total budgets of interim cultural test films, April 2007 to March 2015**

<b>Period</b>	<b>Median total budget £m</b>
Apr 2007-Mar 2008	1.7
Apr 2008-Mar 2009	1.1
Apr 2009-Mar 2010	1.3
Apr 2010-Mar 2011	0.9
Apr 2011-Mar 2012	1.0
Apr 2012-Mar 2013	1.0
Apr 2013-Mar 2014	0.7
Apr 2014-Mar 2015	0.8

Source: BFI

Interim cultural test certifications have only been issued since 2007, when the film tax relief came into effect.

The 'median' is the middle value, i.e. half the productions have higher total budgets than the median and the other half have lower total budgets.

For co-productions receiving interim certification, the median budget decreased by approximately £0.5 million from £4 million in April 2013-March 2014 to £3.5 million in April 2014-March 2015 (Table 4). Median budget has fluctuated over the time period, with April 2007-March 2008 have the highest median at £4.6 million.

**Table 4 Median total budgets of interim co-productions, April 2007 to March 2015**

<b>Period</b>	<b>Median total budget £m</b>
Apr 2007-Mar 2008	4.6
Apr 2008-Mar 2009	4.5
Apr 2009-Mar 2010	3.1
Apr 2010-Mar 2011	4.4
Apr 2011-Mar 2012	2.6
Apr 2012-Mar 2013	4.1
Apr 2013-Mar 2014	4.0
Apr 2014-Mar 2015	3.5

Source: BFI

The 'median' is the middle value, i.e. half the productions have higher total budgets than the median and the other half have lower total budgets.



### 2.3 Co-production treaties

In Q1 2015, the final co-production certifications for films were under the European Convention of Cinematographic Co-production (ECCE) and the UK/New Zealand co-production treaty. The interim co-production films qualifying as official co-productions were under the ECCE and the UK/Australia co-production treaty. For disclosure reasons, the number of co-productions qualifying as British under each treaty are not provided.

## 3. High-end television certifications

### 3.1 Certification – numbers of applications and values

It has been two years since tax relief was introduced for high-end television (HETV). As such, in this release statistics for April 2013-March 2015 are reported to show data for two full years in addition to statistics for Q1 2015. Please note that these time periods overlap and that Q1 2015 data are also included in data for April 2014-March 2015.

A total of 42 HETV programmes received final certification in April 2014-March 2015, a substantial increase from the 13 programmes in April 2013-March 2015 (Table 5). UK spend and total budget was £268 million and £308 million respectively in April 2014-March 2015, increasing from a UK spend and total budget £64 million in April 2013-March 2014. In the later period, UK spend was 87% of total budget, a decrease on 100% in the earlier period. No co-productions have received final certification since April 2013.

**Table 5 Cultural test final certifications for HETV, April 2013 to March 2015**

	<b>Apr 2013-Mar 2014</b>	<b>Apr 2014-Mar 2015</b>
Number	13	42
UK spend £m	63.8	267.7
Total budget £m	63.8	308.0
UK spend as a % of total budget	100.0	86.9

Source BFI.

'Total budget' is the sum of production activity in the UK and production activity outside the UK..

As with film, interim certifications indicate the expected future level of official UK HETV production. Similar to final certifications, the number of interim cultural test certifications, UK spend and total budget has increased between April 2013-March 2014 and April 2014-March 2015 (Table 6). The number of HETV interim certifications went up from 28 in April 2013-March 2014 to 67 April 2014-March 2015. UK spend and total budget has increased from £245 million and £274 million respectively in April 2013-March 2014 to £488 million and £607 million respectively in April 2014-March 2015. UK spend as a percentage of total budget has decreased from 89% to 81%. HETV co-productions are not shown for disclosure control reasons.

**Table 6 Cultural Test interim certification for HETV, April 2013-March 2015**

	<b>Apr 2013-Mar 2014</b>	<b>Apr 2014-Mar 2015</b>
Number	28	67
UK spend £m	245.3	488.3
Total budget £m	274.3	606.5
UK spend as a % of total budget	89.4	80.5

Source: BFI

'Total Budget' is the sum of production activity in the UK and production activity outside the UK..

In Q1 2015, a total of six HETV programmes received final certification under the cultural test, with a UK spend of £30 million and a total budget of £32 million (Table 7). This is down on Q1 2014, which saw eight HETV projects receive final certification; UK spend and total budget was £51 million (UK spend was 100% of total budget). No co-productions received final certification in either Q1 2014 or Q1 2015.

**Table 7 Cultural test final certification for HETV Q1 2014 and Q1 2015**

	<b>Q1 2014</b>	<b>Q1 2015</b>
Number	8	6
UK spend £m	50.6	30.1
Total budget £m	50.6	31.6
UK spend as a % of total budget	100.0	95.2

Source: BFI

'Total Budget' is the sum of production activity in the UK and production activity outside the UK..

A total of 11 HETV programmes received interim certification in Q1 2015, all of which were under the cultural test (Table 8). UK spend and total budget had a substantial increase from £129 million and £153 million respectively in Q1 2014 to £734 million and £818 million respectively in Q1 2015. UK spend in both time periods was a similar percentage of total budget, at 84% in Q1 2014 and 83% in Q1 2015. Co-productions are not shown for disclosure control reasons.

**Table 8 Cultural test Interim certification for HETV, Q1 2014 and Q1 2015**

<b>Type of certification</b>	<b>Q1 2014</b>	<b>Q1 2015</b>
Number	8	11
UK spend £m	122.0	733.7
Total budget £m	142.4	880.9
UK spend as a % of total budget	85.7	83.3

Source: BFI

'Total Budget' is the sum of production activity in the UK and production activity outside the UK.

### 3.2 Total Budgets

This release presents the median total budget per minute of content for HETV instead of median total budget, as in previous releases<sup>1</sup>. The median total budget of interim cultural test HETV projects for April 2014-March 2015 was £22,057, an increase from £21,776 in April 2013-March 2014. Comparing Q1 2014 and Q1 2015, median total budget increased from £21,788 to £25,507.

For disclosure control reasons, median budget per minute for interim co-productions is provided for April 2013-March 2015. Median total budget for this period was £22,349. As there are no co-productions with final certifications, no median total budget per minute is provided.

### 3.3 Co-production treaties

In the last two years, the interim co-productions were under the UK/Australia and UK/Canada co-production treaties. For disclosure reasons, the number of co-productions under each treaty is not provided.

## 4. Animation programme certifications

### 4.1 Certification – numbers of applications and values

As with HETV, it has been two years since tax relief was introduced for animation programmes, as such, in this release statistics for April 2013-March 2015 are reported to show data for two full years in addition to statistics for Q1 2015. Please note that these time periods overlap and that Q1 2015 data are also included in data for April 2014-March 2015.

A total of 24 animation programmes received final certification in April 2013-March 2015 (Table 9). Data for April 2013-March 2014 and April 2014-March 2015 have been aggregated for disclosure reasons. No co-productions have received final certification since April 2013. UK spend and budget was ££24 million and £42 million respectively in April 2013-March 2015. UK spend was 57% of total budget.

**Table 9 Cultural test final certification for animation programmes, April 2013-March 2015**

	<b>Apr 2013-Mar 2015</b>
Number	24
UK spend £m	23.6
Total budget £m	41.6
UK spend as a % of total budget	56.6

Source: BFI

'Total Budget' is the sum of production activity in the UK and production activity outside the UK.

<sup>1</sup> Certification applications are received for one-off programmes as well as series (that can be any length of time greater than 31 minutes), this median provides a better representation of the average HETV programme budget. Advice was obtained from Pact regarding appropriate median budgets.

The number of interim certifications increased from 27 in April 2013-March 2014 to 36 April 2014-March 2015 (Table 10). UK spend and total budget has increased £58 million and £67 million respectively in April 2013-March 2014 to £83 million and £104 million respectively in April 2014-March 2015. UK spend as a percentage of budget has decreased from 86% to 79%.

Six co-productions received interim certification, with a UK spend of £5 million and a total budget of £11 million (47% of budget). There were no co-productions with interim certification in April 2013-March 2014.

**Table 10 Interim certification for animation programmes, April 2013 to March 2015**

<b>Type of certification</b>	<b>Apr 2013-Mar 2014</b>	<b>Apr 2014-Mar 2015</b>
<b>Cultural Test</b>		
Number	27	30
UK spend £m	57.9	77.5
Total budget £m	67.2	93.6
UK spend as a % of total budget	86.1	82.8
<b>Co-production</b>		
Number	-	6
UK spend £m	-	5.0
Total budget £m	-	10.7
UK spend as a % of total budget	-	47.0
<b>All Types</b>		
Number	27	36
UK spend £m	57.9	82.6
Total budget £m	67.2	104.3
UK spend as a % of total budget	86.1	79.2

Source: BFI

'Total Budget' in the case of cultural test animation programmes is the sum of production activity in the UK and production activity outside the UK; in the case of co-production it is the sum of investments made by all participating countries in the film.

In Q1 2015, eight animation programmes received final certification under the cultural test, with a UK spend of £13 million and a total budget of £20 million. UK spend was 64% of budget. Q1 2014 data are not shown for disclosure control reasons. No co-productions received final certification in this period.

For interim certification in Q1 2015, eight animation programmes received interim certification under the cultural test, with UK spend at £26 million and budget at £28 million (Table 11). This is an increase on Q1 2014, where six programmes received certifications, having a UK spend of £14 million and a budget of £15 million. No co-productions received interim certifications in these quarters.

**Table 11 Cultural test interim certification for animation programmes, Q1 2014-Q1 2015**

	Q1 2014	Q1 2015
Number	6	8
UK spend £m	14.2	25.8
Total budget £m	15.0	27.6
UK spend as a % of total budget	94.8	93.3

Source: BFI

'Total Budget' is the sum of production activity in the UK and production activity outside the UK.

#### **4.2 Total Budgets**

As with HETV, this release presents the median total budget per minute of content for animation programmes instead of median total budget, as in previous releases<sup>2</sup>. The median total budget of interim cultural test certifications for April 2014-March 2015 was £9,578, an increase from £6,263 in April 2013-March 2014. Comparing Q1 2014 and Q1 2015, median total budget increased from £7,185 to £9,483.

As we have reported co-productions with final certifications for April 2014-March 2015 only, we report the median budget per minute of content for this period. The median total budget was £5,833.

#### **4.3 Co-production Treaties**

The co-productions that received interim certification were all under the Uk/Canada co-production treaty.

### **5. Video Games Certification**

It has been a year since tax relief was introduced for video games in April 2014, as such, in this release statistics for April 2014-March 2015 are reported to show data for a full year in addition to statistics for Q1 2015. Please note that these time periods overlap and that Q1 2015 data are also included in data for April 2014-March 2015. As the regulations for video-games refers to spend not just in the UK but also in the European Economic Area (EEA), we report UK/EEA spend rather than only UK spend. There are no co-production treaties for video games, as such no statistics are available.

A total of 19 video games received final certification in April 2014-March 2015, (Table 12). EEA/UK spend was £14 million and total budget was £15 million, making UK spend 95% of total budget. For Q1 2015, 18 video games received final certification. For disclosure control reasons, the EEA/UK spend and total budget is not reported.

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<sup>2</sup> Certification applications are received for one-off programmes as well as series, this median provides a better representation of the average animation programme budget. Advice was obtained from Pact regarding appropriate median budgets.

**Table 12 Cultural test final certification for video games, April 2014-March 2015**

<b>Number</b>	<b>EEA/UK spend £m</b>	<b>Total budget £m</b>	<b>EEA/UK spend as a % of total budget</b>
19	14.4	15.1	95.2

Source: BFI

'Total Budget' is the sum of development activity in the UK and production activity outside the UK.

For interim certification in April 2014-March 2015, 48 video games received interim certification under the cultural test, with EEA/UK spend at £159 million and total budget at £168 million (Table 13). In Q1 2015, 25 video games received interim certification, with EEA/UK spend at £114 million and total budget at £121 million.

**Table 13 Cultural test interim certification for video games**

<b>Period</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>EEA/UK spend £m</b>	<b>Total budget £m</b>	<b>EEA/UK spend as a % of total budget</b>
Apr 2014-Mar 2015	48	158.7	167.5	94.8
Q1 2015	25	114.0	121.4	93.9

Source: BFI

'Total Budget' is the sum of development activity in the UK and production activity outside the UK.

## **5.2 Total Budgets**

The median total budget for interim certifications was £0.3 million for April 2014-March 2015 and £0.5 million for Q1 2015.

## Appendix A

**Table 14 Median budgets of interim cultural test films, 2007-Q1 2015**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Median budget £m</b>
2007	1.8
2008	1.5
2009	1.0
2010	1.1
2011	0.9
2012	1.0
2013	0.7
2014	0.9
Q1 2015	0.8

Source: BFI

Interim cultural test certifications have only been issued since 2007, when new tax relief regulations game into effect.

The 'median' is the middle value, i.e. half the productions have higher budgets than the median and the other half have lower budgets.

**Table 15 Median budgets of interim co-productions, 2007 - Q1 2015**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Median budget £m</b>
2007	3.7
2008	4.7
2009	3.3
2010	3.7
2011	2.1
2012	5.2
2013	4.0
2014	3.4
Q1 2015	4.3

Source: BFI

The 'median' is the middle value, i.e. half the productions have higher budgets than the median and the other half have lower budgets.

## Notes:

### 1. British film certification statistics collected and reported by the BFI

The British film certification statistics in this report are based on data collected by the BFI's Certification Unit, on behalf of DCMS. The data reported are all British films, HETV programmes, animation programme and video games certified as British in the reference period, not a sample.

The BFI Certification Unit assesses all British film, HETV programme, animation programme and video game certification applications on behalf of DCMS and makes recommendations to the Secretary of State who signs the certificates. The certificates are then issued by the BFI Certification Unit.

Figures shown in the tables are for British films, HETV programmes and animation programmes and EEA video games certified during the reference periods shown. Certification may occur some time after both the production/development and release (theatrical or broadcast in the case of films, HETV programmes and animation programmes) of the film, programme or video game.

### 2. Definitions

**Cultural test films** are British films certified under the cultural test (as amended in April 2014 in the Films Act 1985). To qualify under this definition, films commencing principal photography on or after 1 April 2014 must pass a UK cultural test awarding points for UK and EEA elements in the story, setting and characters and for where and by whom the film was made.

On the basis of recommendations made by the BFI, the Secretary of State grants interim certification prior to the completion of the film to those films that meet the criteria and final certification once the film has been completed and final documents submitted. Under the cultural test, applicants are not obliged to apply for interim certification and can apply just for final certification when the film is complete.

**Cultural test high-end television programmes** are British television programmes certified under the cultural test for Schedule 16 to the Finance Act 2013. To qualify under this definition, television programmes commencing principal photography on or after 1 April 2013 must pass a UK cultural test awarding points for UK and EEA state elements in the story, setting and characters and for where and by whom the television programme was made.

On the basis of recommendations made by the BFI, the Secretary of State grants interim certification prior to the completion of the HETV programmes to those programmes that meet the criteria and final certification once the programme has been completed and final documents submitted. Under the cultural test, applicants are not obliged to apply for interim certification and can apply just for final certification when the HETV programme is complete.



A HETV programme is a drama (which includes comedy) or documentary production that is intended for broadcast and has core expenditure per hour of slot length of not less than £1 million. The slot length in relation to the HETV programme must also be greater than 30 minutes. Slot length in relation to a television programme means the period of time which the programme is commissioned to fill.

**Cultural test television animation programmes** are British animation programmes certified under the cultural test for Schedule 16 to the Finance Act 2013. To qualify under this definition, animation programmes commencing principal photography on or after 1 April 2013 must pass a UK cultural test awarding points for UK and EEA state elements in the story, setting and characters and for where and by whom the animation programme was made.

On the basis of recommendations made by the BFI, the Secretary of State grants interim certification prior to the completion of the animation programmes to those programmes that meet the criteria and final certification once the programme has been completed and final documents submitted. Under the cultural test, applicants are not obliged to apply for interim certification and can apply just for final certification when the animation programme is complete.

**Cultural test video games** are British video games certified under the cultural test for Schedule 17 and 18 to the Finance Act 2013. To qualify under this definition, video games commencing principal development on or after 1 April 2014 must pass a UK cultural test awarding points for UK, EEA state and undetermined location elements in the story, setting and characters and for where and by whom the animation programme was made.

On the basis of recommendations made by the BFI, the Secretary of State grants interim certification prior to the completion of the video game to those video games that meet the criteria and final certification once the video game has been completed and final documents submitted. Under the cultural test, applicants are not obliged to apply for interim certification and can apply just for final certification when the video game is complete.

**Official UK co-productions** are British films, HETV programmes or animation programmes certified under one of the UK's official co-production treaties. Interim certification is granted in conjunction with the co-producing party competent authority prior to the start of principal photography to films, HETV or animation programmes that meet the criteria and final certification once the film, HETV or animation programme has been completed and final documents submitted. Films, HETV programmes or animation programmes made as official co-productions are not required to pass the film, HETV programme or animation programme cultural tests.

For full details for the cultural test, co-productions and other information on British film certification see <http://www.bfi.org.uk/film-industry/british-certification-tax-relief>.

**UK spend** is the value of the production activities in the UK cultural test films and UK expenditure for co-productions (bilateral and European Convention of Cinematographic Co-production). UK spend for co-productions may include some expenditure on UK goods and services which took place outside the UK.

### **3. Revisions**

As the status and certification dates of individual films, HETV programmes, animation programmes or video games may change as a result of changing circumstances, the numbers published in this release are subject to revision. Each release in this series includes revisions of previous quarter, so the latest release should be referred to as the most accurate summation available of the certification numbers.

### **4. Disclosing individual film, HETV programme, animation programme and video games information**

Films, programmes and video games data (number of films, programmes and video games, UK spend, UK/EEA spend and total budget) are not disclosed when the number of films, programmes and video games is five or fewer.

### **5. Feedback**

We welcome feedback from users of our statistics releases to help us improve what we do. If you have any feedback on these statistics or if you wish to make a complaint, in the first instance please contact us using the named contact details listed below.

### **6. Pre-release access**

This release has been prepared according to the Code of Practice for Official Statistics published by the UK Statistics Authority. Pre-release access has been granted to the following:

Amanda Nevill, Chief Executive, BFI  
Fiona Cookson, Director of External Affairs, BFI  
Ben Roberts, Director of Film Fund, BFI  
Richard Shaw, Director of Marketing, Communications and Audiences, BFI  
Carol Comley, Head of Film Policy, BFI  
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## **7. Statistical contact details**

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