

British film, high-end television, animation television programmes, children’s television programmes and video games certification, full year 2016

BFI Research and Statistics Unit
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1. Key Points

- In 2016, 276 films received final certification, with a UK spend of £960 million and a total budget of £1,608 million. UK spend was 60% of total budget.
- Of these, 269 were cultural test films, with a UK spend of £936 million and total budget of £1,533 million, and seven films were co-productions, with a UK spend of £24 million and total budget of £75 million.
- A total of 83 high-end television (HETV) programmes received final certification, all under the cultural test in 2016, with a UK spend of £769 million and a total budget was £911 million (the highest since records began). UK spend was 84% of total budget.
- There were 38 animation television programmes with final certification under the cultural test in 2016 with a UK spend of £45 million and total budget of £62 million. UK spend was 72% of total budget.
- In 2016, 36 children’s television programmes (CTV) received final certification, all under the cultural test. UK spend was £25 million and total budget was £25.4 million. UK spend was 99% of total budget.
- A total of 188 video games received final certification with an UK/EEA spend of £197 million and a total budget of £218 million. UK/EEA spend was 91% of total budget.

Table 1 Final certifications for film, high-end television programmes, animation television programmes children’s television programmes and video games 2016

	Film	High-end television	Animation television programmes	Children’s television programmes	Video games
Cultural test (number)	269	83	38	36	188
Co-production (number)	7	-	c	-	N/A*
UK spend £m	960.2	768.9	44.5 [†]	25.0	197.3
Total budget £m	1,608.1	911.5	62.2 [†]	25.4	217.8
UK spend as % of budget	59.7	84.4	71.6 [†]	98.5	90.6

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-productions it is the sum of investments made by all participating countries in the film.

‘c’ Data are suppressed for disclosure reasons

[†] Data for cultural test UK spend and budget only, because co-production data has been suppressed.

*There are no video-games co-productions as the legislation only covers certification under the cultural test.

2. Feature film certification

2.1 Certification - numbers of applications and values

2.1.1 Final certifications

A total of 276 films received final certification in 2016, the highest of the time period, 2007-2016, and up from 253 films in 2015. The majority, 269, were cultural test films and the remaining seven films were certified as co-productions, the lowest of the period (Table 2 and Figures 1 and 2). The total UK spend and budget of films with final certification in 2016 was £960 million and £1,608 million respectively. UK spend was 60% of total budget, the lowest of the period. Although budget has increased by £79 million from £1,529 million in 2015, UK spend has decreased by £29 million from £990 in 2015.

The majority of the UK spend and budget were from films certified under the cultural test; UK spend at £936 million was 61% of budget for these films (58% of total budget for all films - both cultural test films and co-productions). Budget for films certified under the cultural test, at £1,533 million, was 95% of total budget for all films. Note that these data are for final certifications, so include films produced over the previous one to three years.¹ Cultural test films include high budget UK/USA films as well as low budget UK films, so the aggregate budget can be influenced by the number and timing of UK/USA productions. Co-production films had a much smaller UK spend and budget at £24 million (the second lowest of the period) and £75 million respectively, a decrease from £30 million and £85 million in 2015.

¹ The latest production statistics are published separately in *Film and other screen sectors production in the UK 2016*.

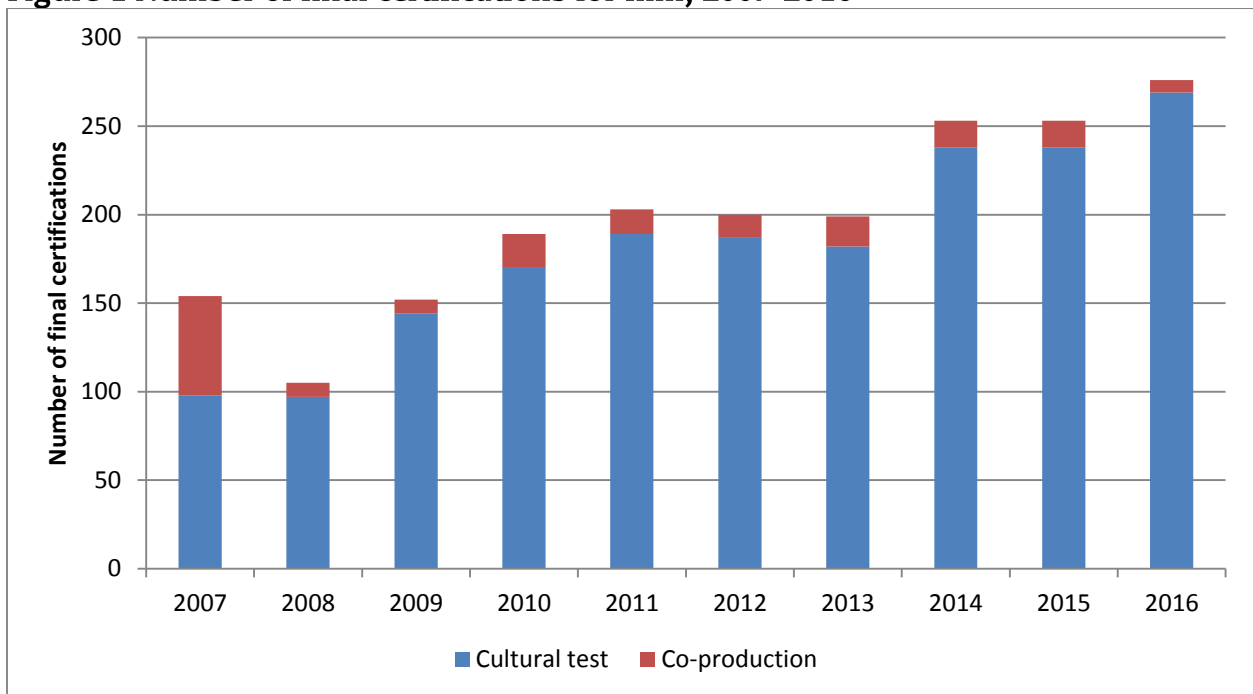
Table 2: Final certifications for film, 2007 to 2016

Type of certification	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Cultural test										
Number	98	97	144	170	189	187	182	238	238	269
UK spend £m	442.4	588.5	422.9	853.8	1,478.5	834.2	1,041.2	1,252.8	959.9	936.3
Total budget £m	561.4	935.1	604.8	1,001.7	2,118.3	1,169.7	1,353.3	1,855.9	1,444.9	1,532.7
UK spend as % of total budget	78.8	62.9	69.9	85.2	69.8	71.3	76.9	67.5	66.4	61.1
Co-production										
Number	56	8	8	19	14	13	17	15	15	7
UK spend £m	123.1	34.0	21.6	51.3	55.0	44.3	65.3	40.0	29.7	23.9
Total budget £m	356.7	45.2	48.0	137.4	131.4	73.5	112.7	68.2	84.6	75.4
UK spend as % of total budget	34.5	75.2	45.0	37.3	41.9	60.3	57.9	58.6	35.1	31.7
All types										
Number	154	105	152	189	203	200	199	253	253	276
UK spend £m	565.5	622.5	444.6	905.1	1,533.5	878.5	1,106.5	1,292.8	989.6	960.2
Total budget £m	918.1	980.3	652.8	1,139.1	2,249.7	1,243.2	1,466.0	1,924.2	1,529.5	1,608.1
UK spend as % of total budget	61.6	63.5	68.1	79.5	68.2	70.7	75.5	67.2	64.7	59.7

Source: BFI

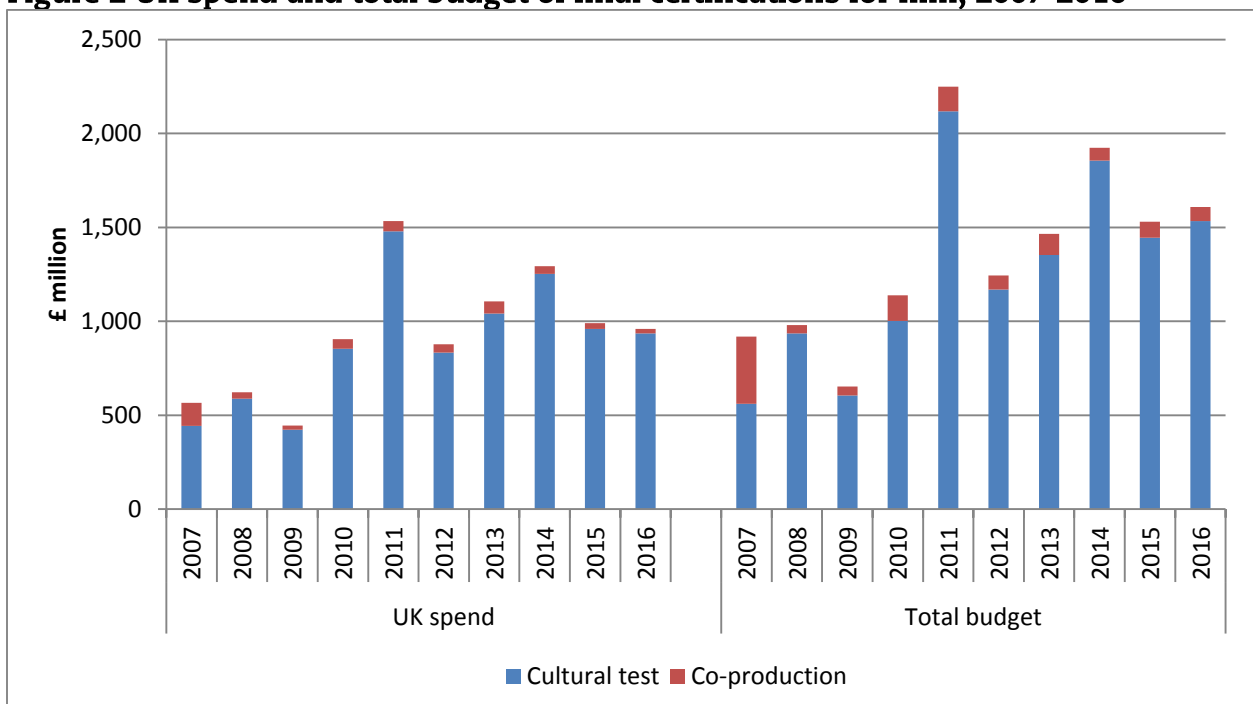
'Total Budget' in the case of cultural test films is the sum of production activity in the UK and production activity outside the UK; in the case of co-productions it is the sum of investments made by all participating countries in the film.

Figure 1 Number of final certifications for film, 2007-2016



Source: BFI

Figure 2 UK spend and total budget of final certifications for film, 2007-2016



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

Interim certifications give an indication of the future level of official UK film production. See *Definitions* in the Notes section for further information on interim certifications. Table 3 and Figures 3 and 4 show the numbers, UK spend and production value of films receiving interim certification in 2007-2016. The number of interim-certified films in 2016 was the highest of the time period at 283. This was up slightly from 2015, where 280 films were awarded interim certification. The number of cultural test films was also at its highest at 262, whereas the number of co-productions was the second highest of the period at 21 films.

The expected UK spend of interim-certified films was £1,437 million and total budget was £2,288 million, both the second highest of the period and a decrease on the 2015, where UK spend was £1,801 million and total budget was £2,857 million. As with films with final certification, the majority of the expected UK spend and budget was from films certified under the cultural test, which had a UK spend of £1,405 million and a total budget of £2,186 million. The UK spend and budget of cultural test films accounted for 61% and 96% respectively of total budget for all films (both cultural test films and co-productions). Co-productions, as with final certifications, had a much smaller UK spend and budget, at £32 million and £102 million respectively. These were the highest since 2013 and up on 2015, where UK spend was £24 million and budget was £69 million.

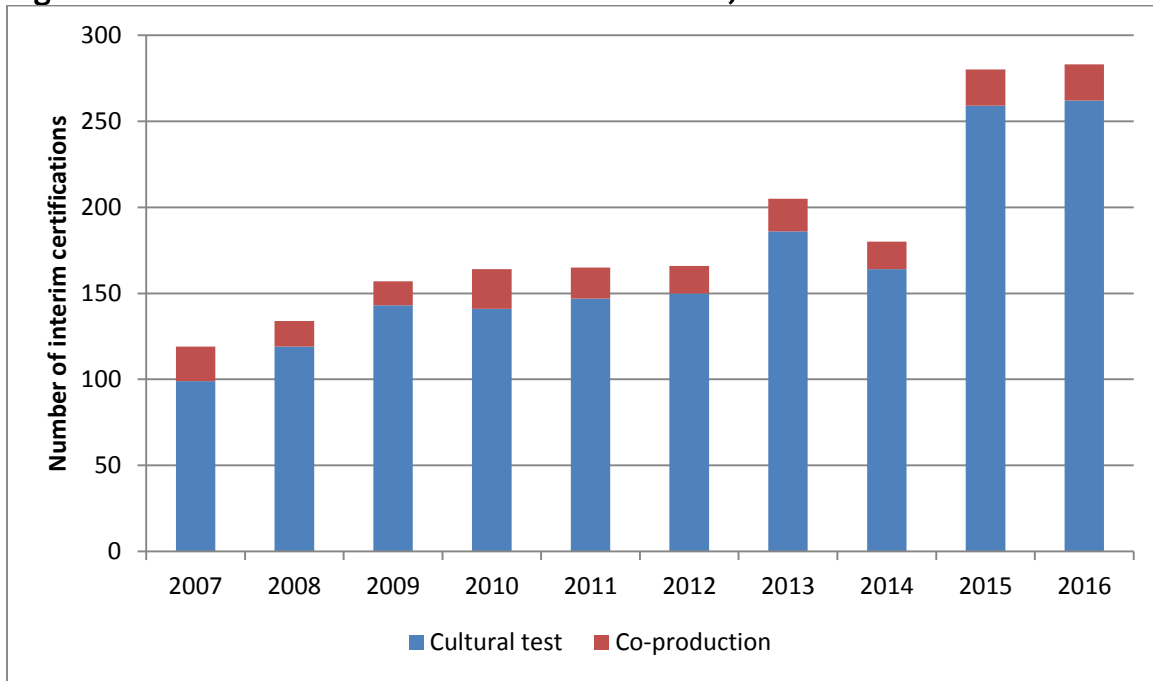
Table 3: Interim certifications for film, 2007 to 2016

Type of certification	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Cultural test										
Number	99	119	143	141	147	150	186	164	259	262
UK spend £m	777.9	663.4	1,283.5	764.2	1,266.3	904.9	795.0	1,165.0	1,777.4	1,405.0
Total budget £m	1,072.6	856.4	1,563.4	1,162.9	1,593.6	1,313.6	1,117.7	1,720.7	2,787.6	2,186.0
UK spend as % of total budget	72.5	77.5	82.1	65.7	79.5	68.9	71.1	67.7	63.8	64.3
Co-production										
Number	20	15	14	23	18	16	19	16	21	21
UK spend £m	61.6	45.7	28.1	71.0	28.5	59.7	50.3	22.8	23.9	31.8
Total budget £m	106.7	106.6	74.7	187.8	62.6	114.3	116.6	71.2	69.2	102.2
UK spend as % of total budget	57.7	42.9	37.6	37.8	45.5	52.2	43.1	32.0	34.5	31.1
All types										
Number	119	134	157	164	165	166	205	180	280	283
UK spend £m	839.5	709.0	1,311.6	835.2	1,294.8	964.7	845.2	1,187.8	1,801.3	1,436.8
Total budget £m	1,179.3	963.0	1,638.1	1,350.7	1,656.3	1,427.9	1,234.3	1,791.9	2,856.8	2,288.2
UK spend as % of total budget	71.2	73.6	80.1	61.8	78.2	67.6	68.5	66.3	63.1	62.8

Source: BFI

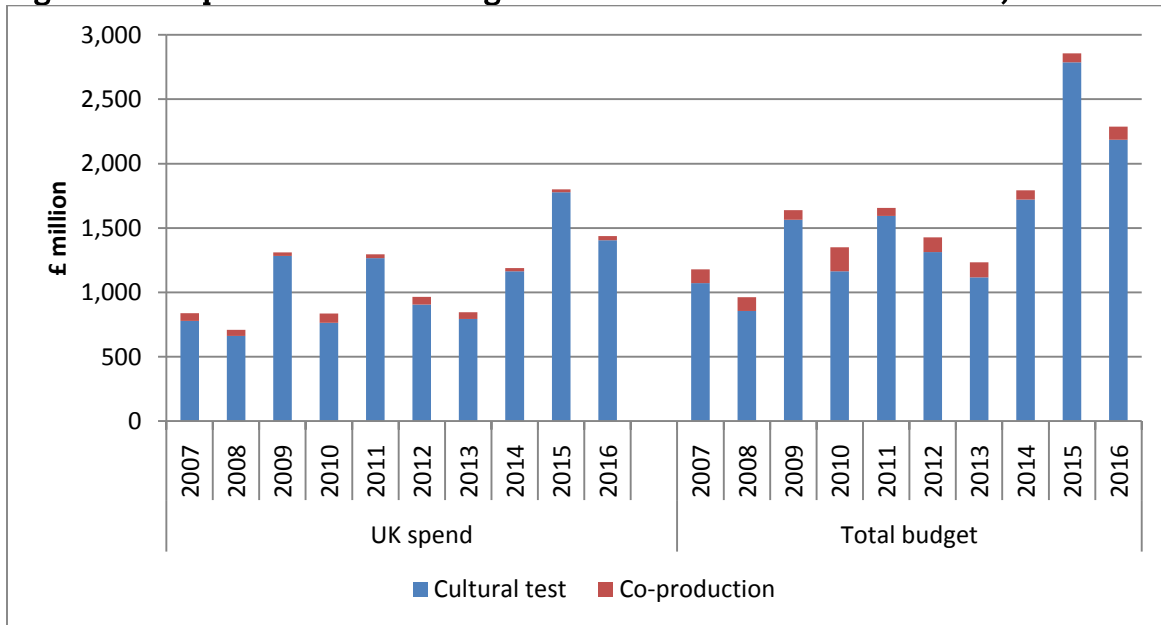
'Total Budget' in the case of Cultural test films is the sum of production activity in the UK and production activity outside the UK; in the case of Co-productions it is the sum of investments made by all participating countries in the film.

Figure 3 Number of interim certifications for film, 2007-2016



Source: BFI

Figure 4 UK spend and total budget of interim certifications for film, 2007-2016



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

Median budgets for films with interim certification under the cultural tests has been on a downward trend since the beginning of the time period, 2007 (Table 4). Median budget for 2016 was just under £0.8 million, the second lowest of the period, after £0.7 million in 2013. The highest median budget was £1.8 million in 2007.

Table 4 Median budgets of interim cultural test certifications

Year	Median budget £m
2007	1.8
2008	1.5
2009	1.0
2010	1.1
2011	0.9
2012	1.0
2013	0.7
2014	0.9
2015	0.9
2016	0.8

Source: BFI

Interim cultural test certifications have only been issued since 2007, when the new film tax relief came into effect; further amendments were made in 2014.

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

Table 5 shows the median budget of interim co-productions since 2003. In 2016 the median budget was £2.3 million. From 2003 to 2011 there had been a downward trend in median budgets, with 2011 having the lowest median budget, at £2.1 million. Median budgets increased in 2012 to £6.1 million, but since then have decreased year on year.

Table 5 Median budgets of interim co-production certifications

Year	Median budget £m		Year	Median budget £m
2003	4.3		2010	3.7
2004	4.2		2011	2.1
2005	4.0		2012	6.1
2006	5.1		2013	4.6
2007	3.7		2014	3.4
2008	4.7		2015	2.8
2009	3.3		2016	2.3

Source: BFI

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

2.3 Co-production treaties

Table 6 shows the numbers of final co-production certifications by treaty from 2007 to 2016. In 2016, five final co-productions, the majority of films, were under the European Convention on Cinematic Co-production; the remaining two were under the UK-Canada treaty.

Table 6 Final co-production certifications by treaty, 2007 - 2016

Treaty	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
European Convention	46	5*	5	14	8	8	12	14	10	5	127
UK - Canada	5	-	1	2	3	1	4†	1	1	2	20
UK - Australia	5	3	2	3	3	4	1	-	4	-	25
UK - France											
UK - New Zealand											
UK - South Africa											
Total	56	8	8	19	14	13	17	15	15	7	172

Source: BFI.

* Includes one film that used an additional treaty between UK and Canada.

† Includes one film that used an additional treaty between Canada and Mexico.

Table 7 shows the numbers of interim co-production certifications by treaty from 2007 to 2016. As with previous years, in 2016 the majority of co-productions, 13, were under the European Convention on Cinematic Co-production. The remaining films were certified under the UK-Canada, UK-Australia, UK-China and UK-France treaties.

Table 7 Interim co-production certifications by treaty, 2007 - 2016

Treaty	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
European Convention	15	10	9	14	15	12	15*	10	16	14	129
UK - Canada	4	1	3	2	2	2	1	5	2	2	24
UK - Australia	1	4	2	7	1	2	3	1	3	5	29
UK - China											
UK - France											
UK - Israel - France											
UK - New Zealand											
UK - South Africa											
Total	20	15	14	23	18	16	19	16	21	21	182

Source: BFI.

*Includes one film that used an additional treaty between Germany and Brazil and one film that used an additional treaty between UK and South Africa.

3. High-end television certifications

3.1 Certification – numbers of applications and values

In 2016, a total of 83 HETV programmes received final certification under the cultural test, the highest of the period, 2014-2016. UK spend was £769 million and total budget was £911 million (Table 8). UK spend and total budget has risen year on year, with an increase of £481 million and £585 million respectively since 2014. UK spend as a percentage of total budget decreased over the time period from 88% to 84%. No co-productions received certification in 2014 and 2016 and data for co-productions for 2015 are not shown for disclosure reasons.

Table 8 Cultural test final certification for HETV 2014 - 2016

	2014	2015	2016
Number	44	58	83
UK spend £m	288.2	412.7	768.9
Total budget £m	326.9	464.7	911.5
UK spend as a % of total budget	88.2	88.8	84.4

Source: BFI

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

As with film, interim certifications give an indication of the future level of official UK HETV programmes production. A total of 77 HETV programmes received interim certification in 2016, all of which were under the cultural test (Table 9). As with final certifications, UK spend and total budget has increased year on year over the period and was £629 million and £840 million respectively in 2016, and increase of £112 million and £206 million respectively since 2014. UK spend as a percentage of total budget decreased over the time period from 82% to 75%. No co-productions received interim certification 2015 and 2016; co-productions for 2014 are not shown for disclosure reasons.

Table 9 Cultural test interim certification for HETV, 2014 - 2016

Type of certification	2014	2015	2016
Number	64	69	77
UK spend £m	517.5	618.1	629.3
Total budget £m	634.0	748.7	839.8
UK spend as a % of total budget	81.6	82.6	74.9

Source: BFI

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

3.2 Total Budgets

As in previous releases, median total budget per minute of content for HETV is presented instead of median total budget². There has been an upward trend in median budget since the beginning of the time period, Q2 2013 (see note to Table 10) to 2015 where median budget peaked at £23,826. In 2016, median budget fell to £22,917. For

² 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.

disclosure reasons, median budget per minute for interim co-productions is not provided.

Table 10 Median budgets of interim cultural test certifications

Year	Median budget per minute
2013*	20,592
2014	21,788
2015	23,826
2016	22,917

Source: BFI

*As the tax relief for HETV programmes commenced in April 2013, median budget for 2013 is for Q2-Q4.

3.3 Co-production treaties

As there were no co-productions certified in 2016, no treaties are reported.

4. Animation television programme certifications

4.1 Certification – numbers of applications and values

A total of 38 animation television programmes received final certification under the Cultural Test in 2016 (Table 11). UK spend and budget was £45 million and £62 million respectively (UK spend was 72% of total budget). This is a decrease on figures for 2015 where there were 51 animation programmes with a UK spend of £62 million and a total budget of £86 million. Co-productions for 2015 and 2016 are not reported for disclosure reasons and no co-productions received certification in 2014.

Table 11 Cultural test final certifications for animation television programmes, 2014 and 2016

	2014	2015	2016
Number	14	51	38
UK spend £m	10.5	62.2	44.5
Total budget £m	21.5	86.4	62.2
UK spend as a % of total budget	49.0	72.0	71.5

Source: BFI

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

As stated earlier for film and HETV, interim certification gives an indication of future animation television programmes production. Thirty one animation programmes received interim certification under the cultural test in 2016, with a UK spend of £75 million and a budget of £84 million (Table 12). UK spend is 90% of total budget. This is up on 2015, where 25 programmes were received certification, with a UK spend and budget of £58 million and £72 million respectively. Co-productions that received interim certification in 2015 and 2016 are not shown for disclosure reasons; six programmes received certification as co-productions in 2014, with a UK spend of £5 million and a total budget of £11 million.

Table 12 Cultural test interim certification for animation television programmes, 2014 - 2016

Type of certification	2014	2015	2016
Cultural Test			
Number	28	25	31
UK spend £m	66.0	57.9	75.3
Total budget £m	81.0	72.1	83.7
UK spend as a % of total budget	81.4	80.4	89.9
Co-production			
Number	6	c	c
UK spend £m	5.0	c	c
Total budget £m	10.7	c	c
UK spend as % of budget	47.0	c	c
All types			
Number	34	c	c
UK spend £m	71.0	c	c
Total budget £m	91.7	c	c
UK spend as % of budget	77.4	c	c

Source: BFI

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

'c' Data are suppressed for disclosure reasons.

4.2 Total Budgets

As with HETV, this release presents the median total budget per minute of content for animation television programmes instead of median total budget³. The median budget per minute of interim cultural test certifications for 2016 was £7,708, a decrease from £7,867 for 2015 (Table 13). The median budget for co-productions is not shown for disclosure reasons.

Table 13 Median budgets of interim cultural test certifications

Year	Median budget per minute £
2013*	6,284
2014	8,202
2015	7,867
2016	7,708

Source: BFI

*As the tax relief for animation programmes commenced in April 2013, median budget for 2013 is for Q2-Q4.

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

³ Certification applications are received for one-off programmes as well as series, this median provides a better representation of the average animation television programme budget. Advice was obtained from Pact regarding appropriate median budgets.

4.3 Co-production Treaties

The interim and final animation television programmes qualifying as official co-productions in 2016 were under the UK/Canada co-production treaty. For disclosure reasons, the number of co-productions qualifying under this treaty is not provided.

5. Children's television

Although legislation for children's television (CTV) certification dates from 01 April 2015, we report full year 2016 only in this release because this is the first full calendar year of this certification and data collection.

5.1 Certification – numbers and values

A total of 36 CTV programmes received certification under the cultural test in 2016, with a UK spend of £25 million and a total budget of £25.4 million. UK spend is 99% of total budget (Table 14).

Table 14 Cultural Test final certification for children's television programmes, 2016

Number	UK Spend £m	Total budget £m	UK spend as % of budget
36	25.0	25.4	98.5

Source: BFI

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

In 2016, there were 31 CTV programmes with interim certification under the cultural test. Expected UK spend was £33 million and expected total budget was £34 million. UK spend was 97% of total budget (Table 15).

Table 15 Cultural Test interim certification for children's television programmes, 2016

Number	UK Spend £m	Total budget £m	UK spend as % of budget
31	33.2	34.1	97.4

Source: BFI

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

There are no CTV co-productions with final or interim certification in 2016.

5.2 Budgets

As with HETV and animation television programmes, this release presents the median total budget per minute of content for CTV programmes instead of median total budget⁴. The median budget per minute of interim cultural test certifications for 2016 was £2,700.

Table 16 Median budgets of interim cultural test certifications

Year	Median budget per minute £
2015*	2,433
2016	2,700

Source: BFI

*As the tax relief for children's television programmes commenced in April 2015, median budget for 2015 is for Q2-Q4. The 'median' is the middle value, i.e. half the productions have higher budgets than the median; the other half have lower budgets.

⁴ Certification applications are received for one-off programmes as well as series (that can be of any length of time), this median provides a better representation of the average CTV programme budget. Advice was obtained from Pact regarding appropriate median budgets.

6. Video Game certification

6.1 Certification – numbers and values

A total of 188 video games received final certification in 2016, up from 116 in 2015 (Table 17). UK/EEA⁵ spend was £197 million and total budget was £218 million. Since 2015 EEA/UK spend has increased from £181 million, but total budget has decreased from £266 million. Due to this, UK spend as a percentage of total budget has increased from 68% to 91%.

There are no co-production treaties for video games.

Table 17 Cultural test final certification for video games, 2015 and 2016

Type of certification	2015	2016
Number	116	188
UK/EEA spend £m	180.9	197.3
Total budget £m	265.6	217.8
UK/EEA spend as % of total budget	68.1	90.6

Source: BFI

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

In 2016, 176 video games received interim certification, an increase from 121 games in the previous year. UK spend and total budget were down on 2015, decreasing from £548 million to £402 million for UK spend and £604 million to £467 million for total budget. UK spend as a percentage of total budget has decreased, from 91% in 2015 to 86% in 2016.

Table 18 Cultural test interim certification for video games, 2015 and 2016

Type of certification	2015	2016
Number	121	176
UK/EEA spend £m	548.0	401.7
Total budget £m	603.6	466.9
UK/EEA spend as % of total budget	90.8	86.0

Source: BFI

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

6.2 Total Budgets

The median total budget for interim certifications was £0.4 million in 2016, slightly down from £0.6 million in 2015.

⁵ 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.

Table 16 Median budgets of interim cultural test certifications

Year	Median £m
2014*	0.2
2015	0.6
2016	0.4

Source: BFI

*As the tax relief for video games commenced in April 2014, median budget for 2014 is for Q2-Q4.

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

Notes:

1. **British film, high-end television programmes (HETV), animation television programmes, children's television programmes (CTV) and video games certification statistics collected and reported by the BFI**

The British film, high-end television programmes, animation television programmes, children's television programmes and video games 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 television programmes, CTV programme and video games certified as British in the reference period, not a sample.

The BFI Certification Unit assesses all British films, HETV programmes, animation television programmes, CTV programmes and video games certification applications on behalf of DCMS and makes recommendations to the Secretary of state. The certificates are then issued by the BFI Certification Unit.

Figures shown in the tables are for British films, HETV programmes, animation television programmes, CTV programmes and 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, animation programmes and CTV programmes or supply in the case of video games) of the film, television 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, cultural contribution 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, 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, cultural contribution 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 animation television programmes are British animation programmes certified under the cultural test, 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, cultural contribution and for where and by whom the animation 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 animation television 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 children's television programmes are British children's television programmes certified under the cultural test, Schedule 16 to the Finance Act 2013. To qualify under this definition, animation programmes commencing principal photography on or after 1 April 2015 must pass a UK cultural test awarding points for UK and EEA state elements in the story, setting and characters, cultural contribution and for where and by whom the children's 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 CTV 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, 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 and EEA elements in the story, setting and characters, cultural contribution and for where and by whom the video game 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, animation television programmes or CTV 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 or authorities for multi-lateral projects prior to the start of principal photography to films, HETV, animation television programmes or CTV programmes that meet the criteria and final certification once the film, HETV, animation television programme or CTV programme has been completed and final documents submitted. Films, HETV programmes, animation television programmes or CTV programmes made as official co-productions are not required to pass the film, HETV programme, animation television programme, or CTV programmes 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 or development activities in the UK cultural tests 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 television programmes CTV 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, children's television programme and video games information

Film, HETV programme, animation television programme, CTV programme 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
Ben Roberts, Director of Film Fund, BFI
Richard Shaw, Director of Marketing, Communications and Audiences, BFI
Carol Comley, Head of Film Policy, BFI
Nick Mason Pearson, Head of Corporate Communications and Public Affairs, BFI
Emma Hewitt, Deputy Head of Press and PR, BFI
Tina McFarling, Media Advisor, BFI
Lynne Kilpatrick, Department of Culture, Media and Sport
James Butler, Department of Culture, Media and Sport
Jane Glastonbury, Department of Culture, Media and Sport
Amie Mulderrig, Department of Culture, Media and Sport

7. Statistical contact details

This release was prepared by Alex Tosta, Research and Statistics Unit, BFI, alex.tosta@bfi.org.uk, tel: +44 (0)20 7957 4815.