

British film, high-end television programmes, animation television programmes, children's television programmes and video games certification¹ January-June (H1) 2018

BFI Research and Statistics Unit

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1. Key Points

Feature Film

- A total of 159 films received final certification under the cultural test in the first half of (H1) 2018, with a UK spend of £0.7 billion and a total budget of £1.4 billion. Five co-productions were certified in this period, with a UK spend of £7.6 million and a total budget of £17 million.
- In the last 12 months, July 2017-June 2018, 322 films received final certification, with a UK spend of £1.34 billion and total budget of £2.41 billion. Of these 312 were cultural test films, with a UK spend of £1.32 billion and total budget of £2.36 billion million; 10 films were co-productions, with a UK spend of £17 million and total budget of £50 million

High-end television programmes

- In H1 2018, 57 high-end television programmes received final certification under the cultural test, with a UK spend of £542 million and a total budget of £786 million. No co-productions received final certification in H1, 2018.
- In the rolling year, July 2017-June 2018, 120 high-end television programmes received final certification under the cultural test. Total UK spend and total budget was £959 million and £1.4 billion respectively.

Animation television programmes

- A total of 35 animation programmes received final certification under the cultural test in H1 2018, with a UK spend of £35 million and a total budget of £56 million.
- In July 2017-June 2018, 56 animation programmes received final certification under the cultural test. These had a UK spend of £62 million and total budget of £88 million.

Children's television programmes

- In H1 2018, a total of 40 children's television programmes were certified under the cultural test, with a UK spend of £43.7 million and a total budget of £44.0 million.
- In the last 12 months, 69 programmes have received certification under the cultural test, with a UK spend of £71 million and a total budget of £74 million.

Video games

- In H1 2018, 87 video games were certified under the cultural test, with an EEA/UK spend of £70 million and a total budget of £78 million.

¹ For definition and outline of certification, see Notes.

- In the rolling year July 2017-June 2018, 185 video games have received final certification, with an EEA/UK spend of £235 million and total budget of £253 million.

Table 1 Final certifications for film, high-end television programmes, animation television programmes children’s television programmes and video games H1 2018

	Film	High-end television	Animation television programmes	Children’s television programmes	Video games
Cultural test (number)	159	57	35	40	87
Co-production (number)	5	-	c	c	N/A*
UK spend £m	707.1	542.3 [†]	35.1 [†]	43.7 [†]	69.9
Total budget £m	1,424.5	786.4 [†]	56.1 [†]	44.0 [†]	78.4
UK spend as % of budget	49.6	70.0 [†]	62.6 [†]	99.4 [†]	89.0

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

‘c’ Data are suppressed for disclosure reasons. For outline of disclosure rule, see Notes.

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

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

2. Feature film certification

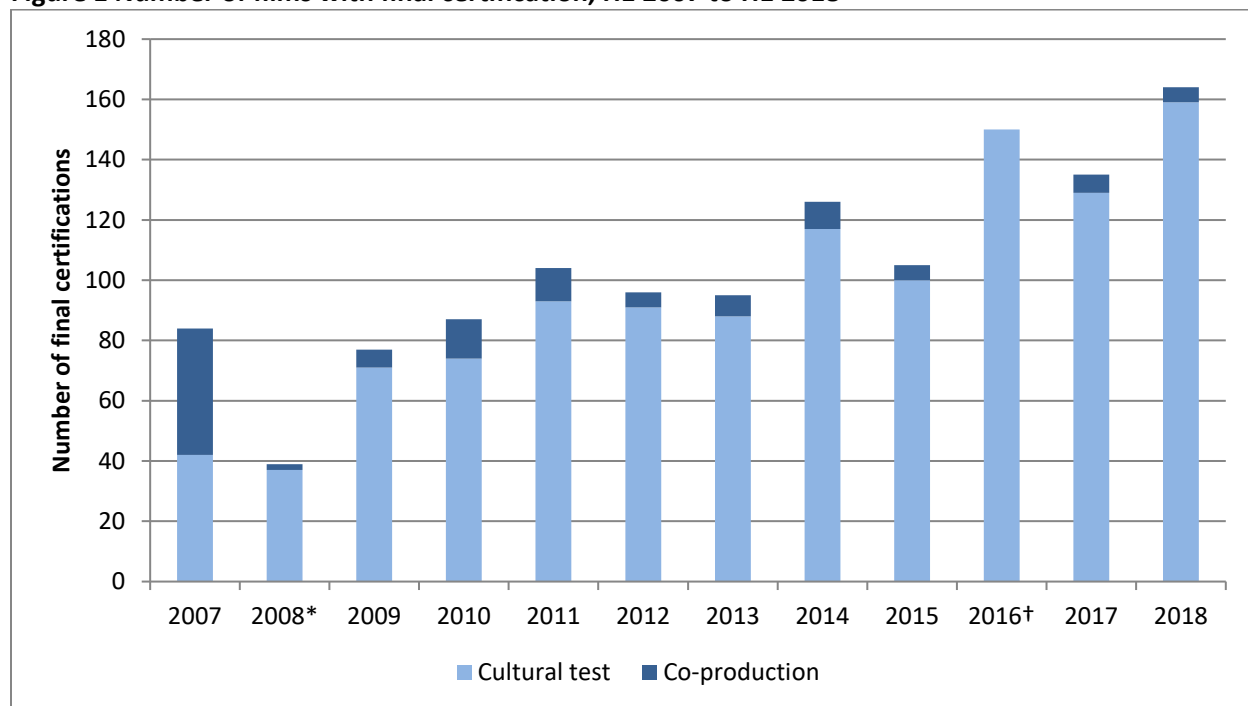
2.1 Certification - number of applications and values²

2.1.1 Final certifications

A total of 164 films received final certification in the first half (H1) of 2018, up from 136 in H1 2017 (Figure 1). The UK spend and total budget of these films was £0.71 billion and £1.42 billion respectively (Figure 2), the second highest of any H1 period overall. UK spend as a percentage of total budget was at 50%. This is the second lowest of the period is due to a small number of blockbuster UK/USA films that although have a large UK spend, a greater proportion of their budget is on non-UK spend.

In H1 2018, 159 films were certified under the cultural test, with a UK spend of £0.7 billion and budget of £1.41 billion. There were five films in the period with final certification as co-productions with a UK spend and budget of £7.6 million and £16.7 million respectively. Co-production applications have remained since 2007 and from 2012 there have been less than 10 co-productions awarded certification in the first half of any year³.

Figure 1 Number of films with final certification, H1 2007 to H1 2018



Source: BFI

* Number of co-productions for H1 2008 is less than the disclosure control threshold of five, the value is included because it has been in the public domain since 2010, following the guidance of the UK Statistics Authority Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

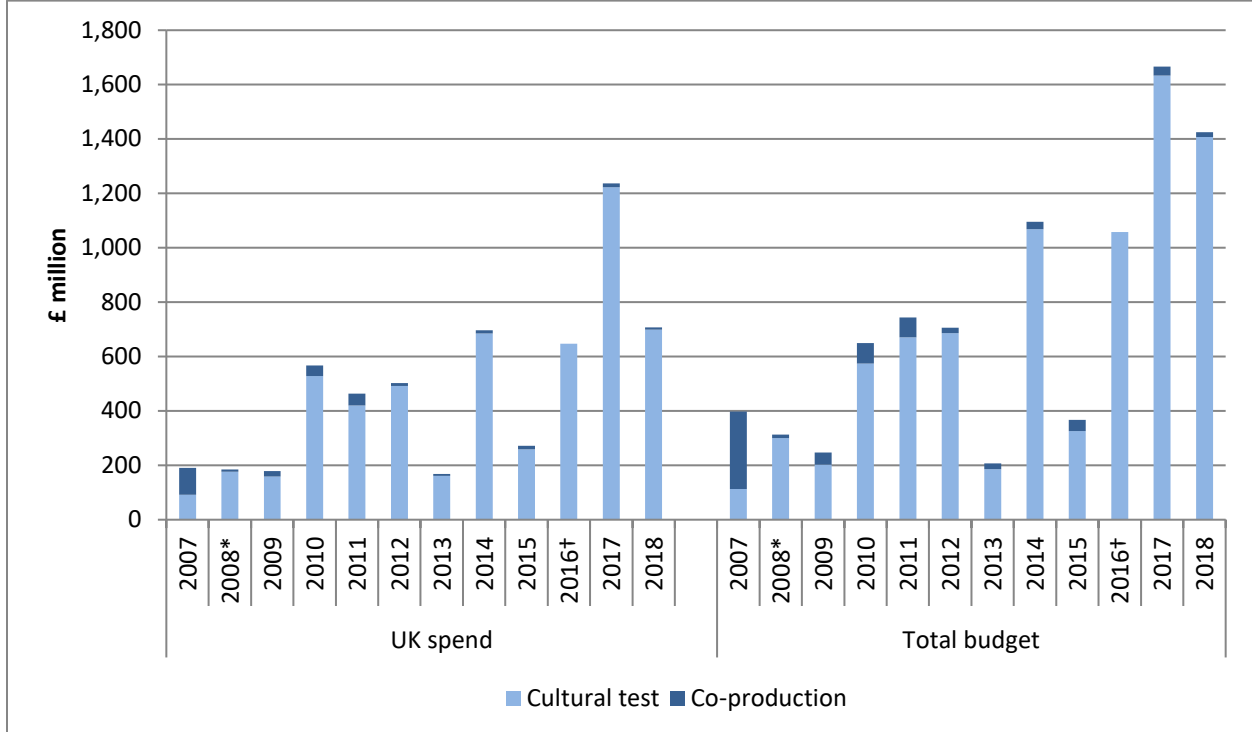
† 2016 shows number of cultural test films only because the number of co-productions is below the disclosure control threshold and has been suppressed.

See Appendix A for supporting data

² For explanation of how certification statistics differ from production in the UK statistics, please see the Notes section.

³ The fall in the number of co-productions may be due to appeal of the cultural test tax relief process. Data on film production show that there are a number of projects that behave as co-productions, but either do not apply for tax relief as official co-productions or apply for tax relief through the cultural test. For production data see *Film and other screen sectors production in the UK H1 2018* available at <http://www.bfi.org.uk/education-research/film-industry-statistics-research/official-statistics-release-calendar>.

Figure 2 UK spend and total budget of films with final certification, H1 2007 to H1 2018



Source: BFI

* UK spend and total budget for co-productions for H1 2008 is included, even though the number of co-production is below the disclosure control threshold, because these data have been in the public domain since 2010, following the guidance of the UK Statistics Authority Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

† 2016 shows number of cultural test films only because the number of co-productions is below the disclosure control threshold and therefore UK spend and total budget has been suppressed.

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

See Appendix A for supporting data

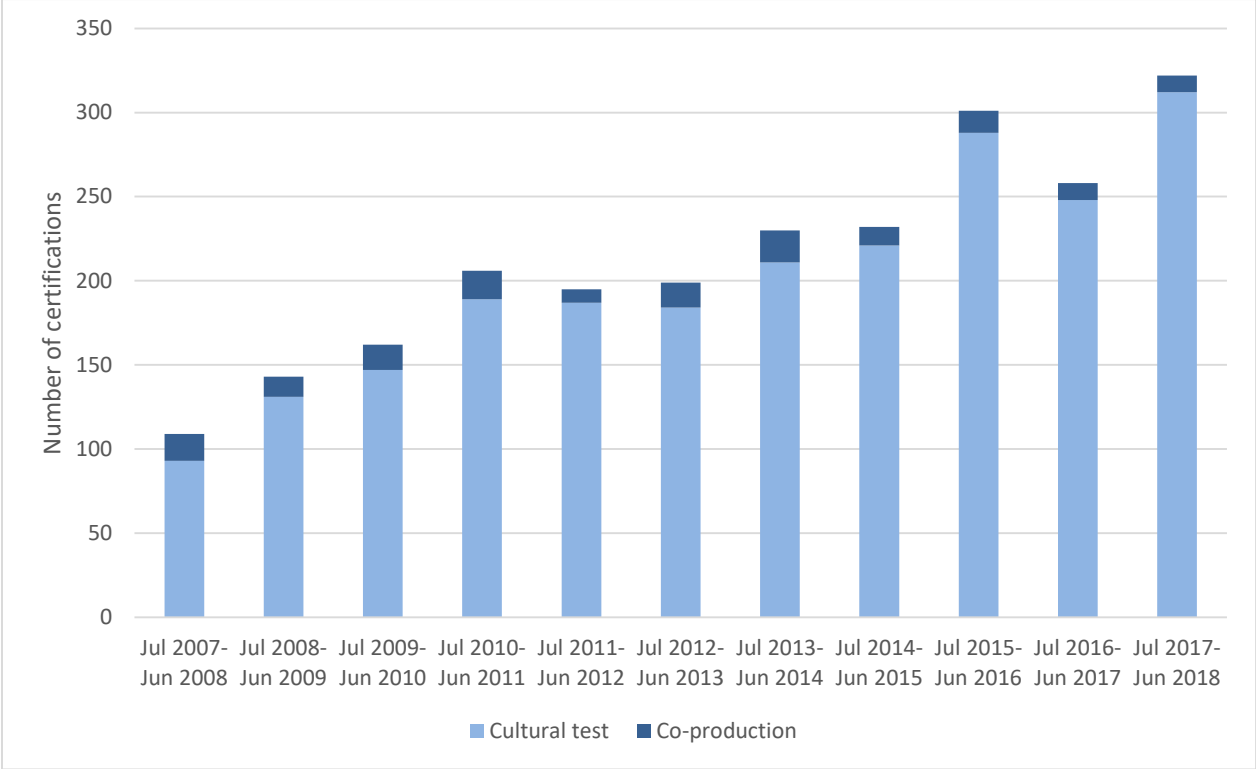
As with previous releases, this release looks at UK spend, total budget and the number of films certified as British in a rolling year highlighting change in the number of applications, UK spend and total budget in 12 month periods, from July 2007. Rolling year data give a broader representation of certification trends. In this release, the rolling year period covered is July 2007-June 2008 to July 2017-June 2018.

A total of 322 films received final certification in July 2017-June 2018, up from 258 films in July 2016-June 2017 (Figure 3). Total UK spend in July 2017-June 2018, at £1.3 billion was down from £1.5 billion in July 2016-June 2017 whereas total budget was up from £2.2 billion to £2.41 billion (Figure 4). Overall, there has been an upward trend for the number of films, UK spend and total budget over the period, however the trend in UK spend and total budget has been more changeable.

For the rolling year, the trend in number, UK spend and budget for films with certification under the cultural test was similar to the trend for all certified films. In July 2016-June 2017 312 films were certified under the cultural test, the highest of the period, with a UK spend and budget of £1.3 billion and £2.4 billion respectively; total budget was the highest of the period. The very high UK spend and total budget since July 2015-June 2016 is, in part, due to the certification of a small number big budget UK/USA collaborations (e.g., *Beauty and the Beast*, *SPECTRE*, *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* and *Transformers: The Last Knight*).

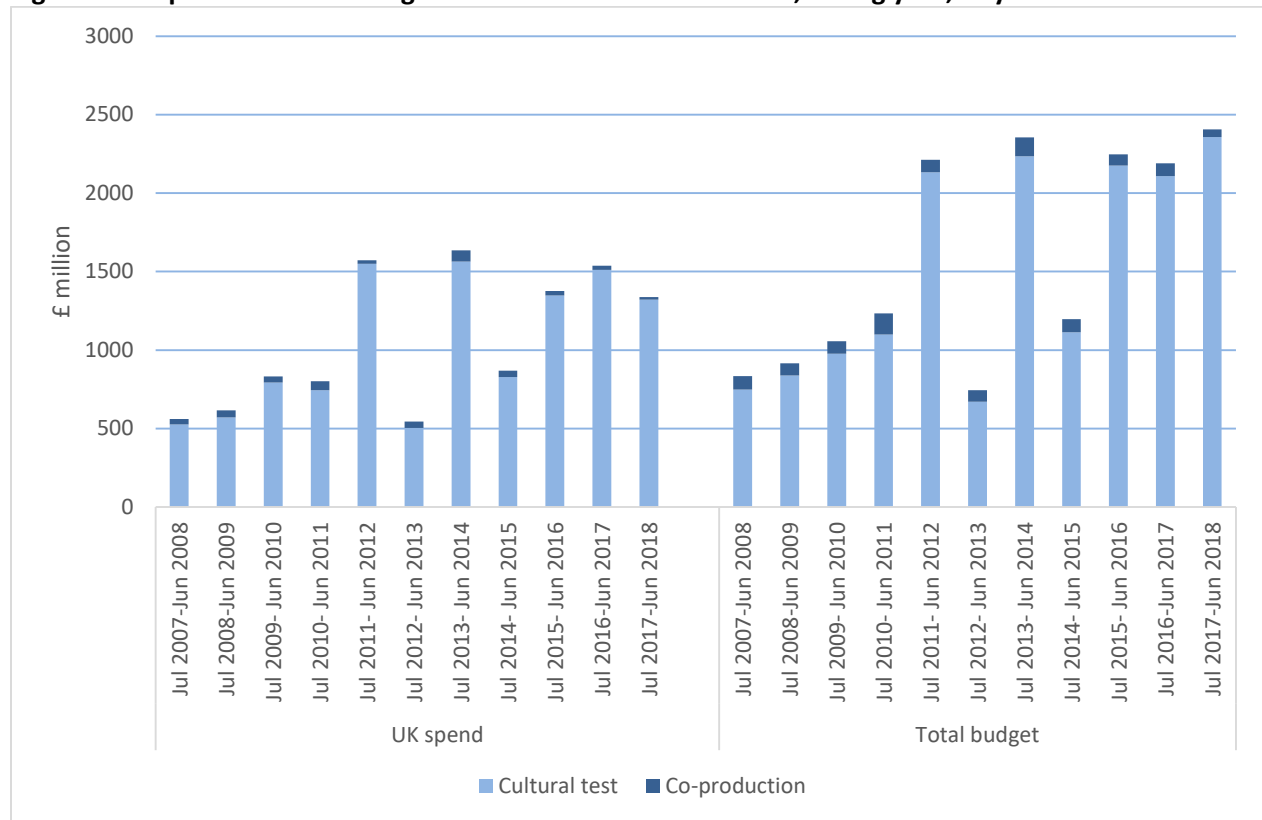
July 2017-June 2018 saw 10 official co-productions receive final certification, with a UK spend of £17 million and a combined budget of £50 million. The number of co-productions has stayed the same as in July 2016-June 2017, but UK spend and budget is the lowest of the period. The number of official co-productions and UK spend has fluctuated over the time period, July 2007 to June 2018. Up to July 2013-June 2014, UK spend and budget was variable and since then there has been a downward trend, with UK spend decreasing year on year. This is, in part, not just due to the decrease in the number of co-productions, but also due to a decrease in the number of films with a total budget over £10 million.

Figure 3 Number of final certifications for film, rolling year, July 2007 to June 2018



Source: BFI
See Appendix A for supporting data

Figure 4 UK spend and total budget of final certifications for film, rolling year, July 2007 to June 2018



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.

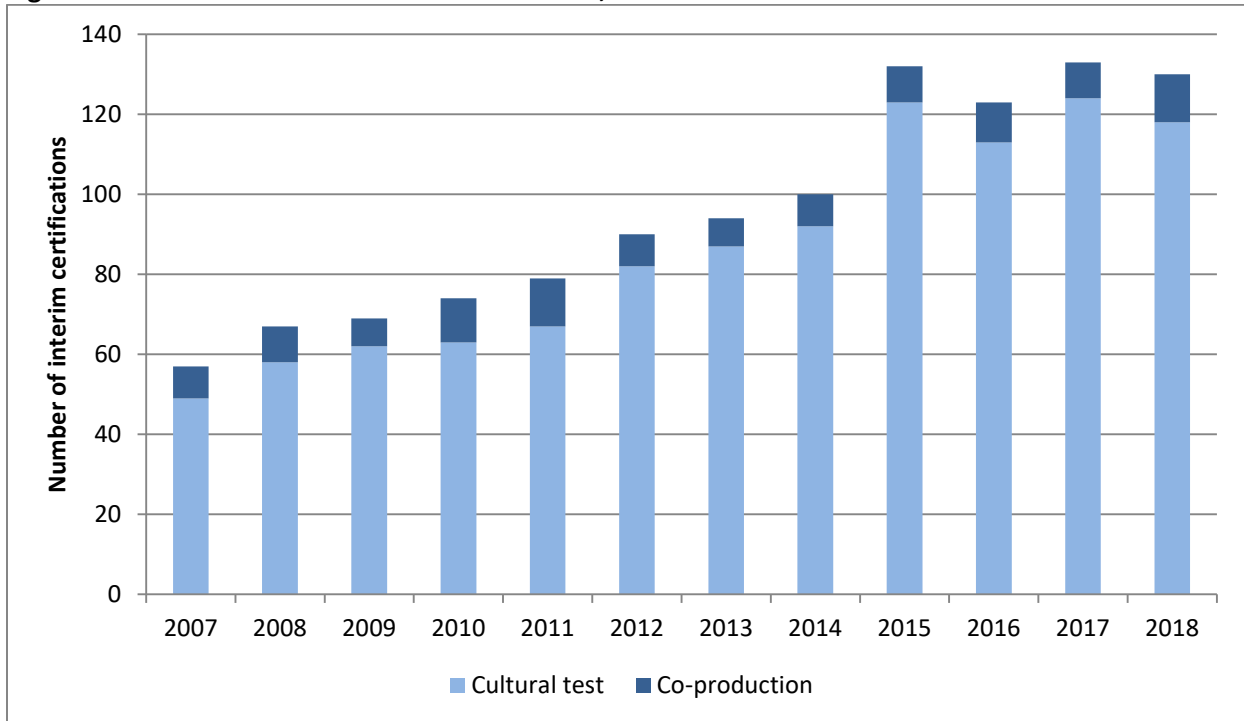
See Appendix A for supporting data

2.1.2 Interim certifications

Interim certification precedes final certification and can point to expected levels of future film production and spend in the UK. A total of 130 films received interim certification in H1 2018, down from 132 in H1 2017 (Figure 5). The total UK spend and budget of these films was £0.92 billion and £1.32 billion respectively; UK spend fell slightly from 0.94 billion in H1 2017 and total budget fell by over £200 million from £1.6 billion (Figure 6). UK spend, as a percentage of budget was 69%, possibly indicating the H1 2018 figure of UK spend at 50% of total budget for films with final certification is unlikely to be a symptom of a long term trend.

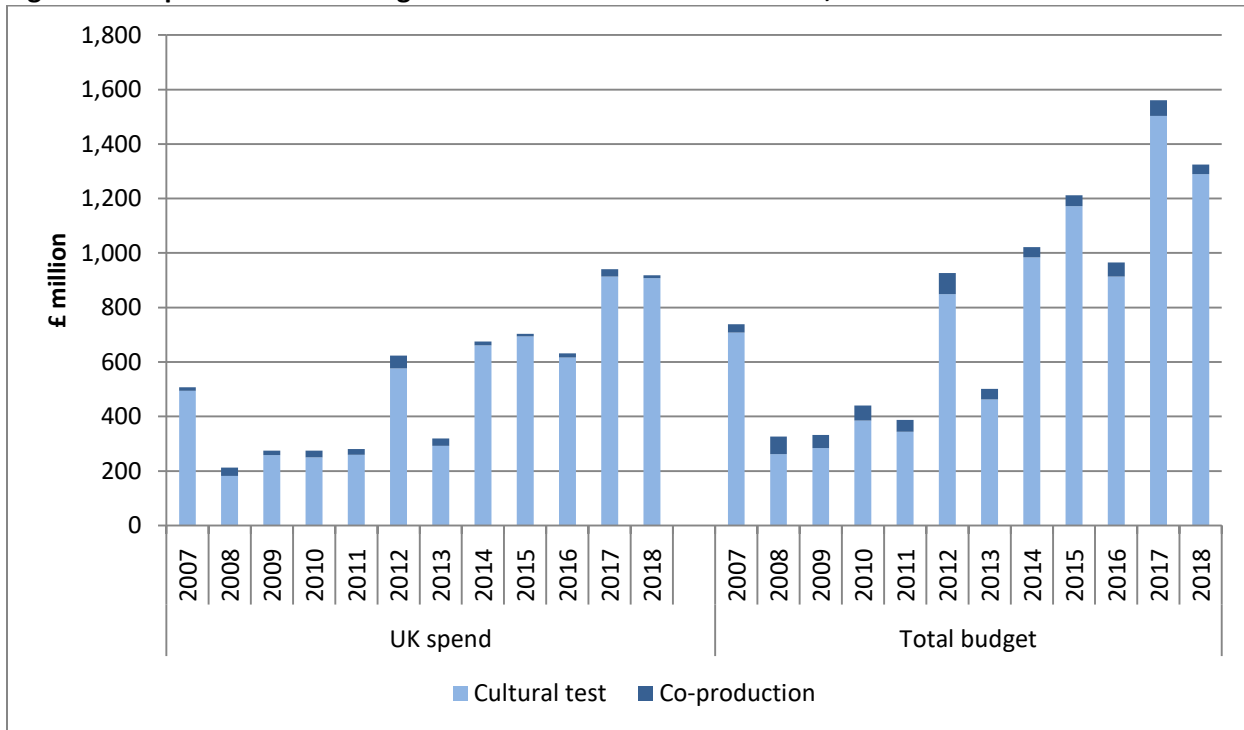
In H1 2018, 118 films were certified under the cultural test, with a UK spend of £0.91 billion (a similar level as H1 2017) and budget of £1.29 billion (Figures 5 and 6). There were 12 films in the period with interim certification as co-productions with a UK spend and budget of £10 million and £35 million respectively. Co-production applications have remained at a similar level through the time period, H1 2007 to H1 2018.

Figure 5 Number of interim certifications for film, H1 2007 to H1 2018



Source: BFI
See Appendix A for supporting data

Figure 6 UK spend and total budget of interim certifications for film, H1 2007 to H1 2018

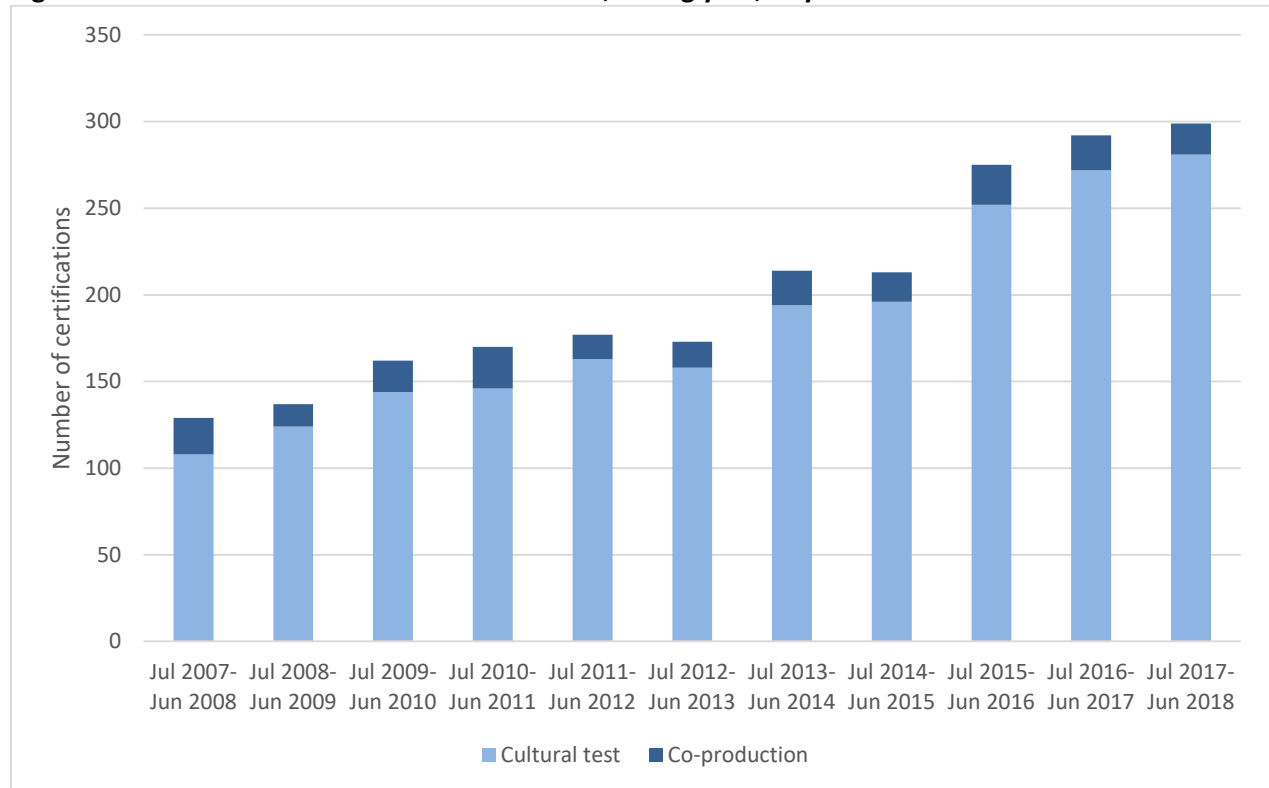


'Total Budget' in the case of cultural test films is the sum of production activity in the UK and production activity outside the UK; in the case of co-production it is the sum of investments made by all participating countries in the film.
See Appendix A for supporting data

There were 299 films with interim certification in July 2017-June 2018, up from 292 films in July 2016-June 2017. UK spend and total budget was at its highest level at £2.1 billion and £3.5 billion respectively (Figures 7 and 8). July 2017-June 2018 saw a substantial increase in UK spend and budget; this is due to high budget UK/USA collaborations being awarded interim certification.

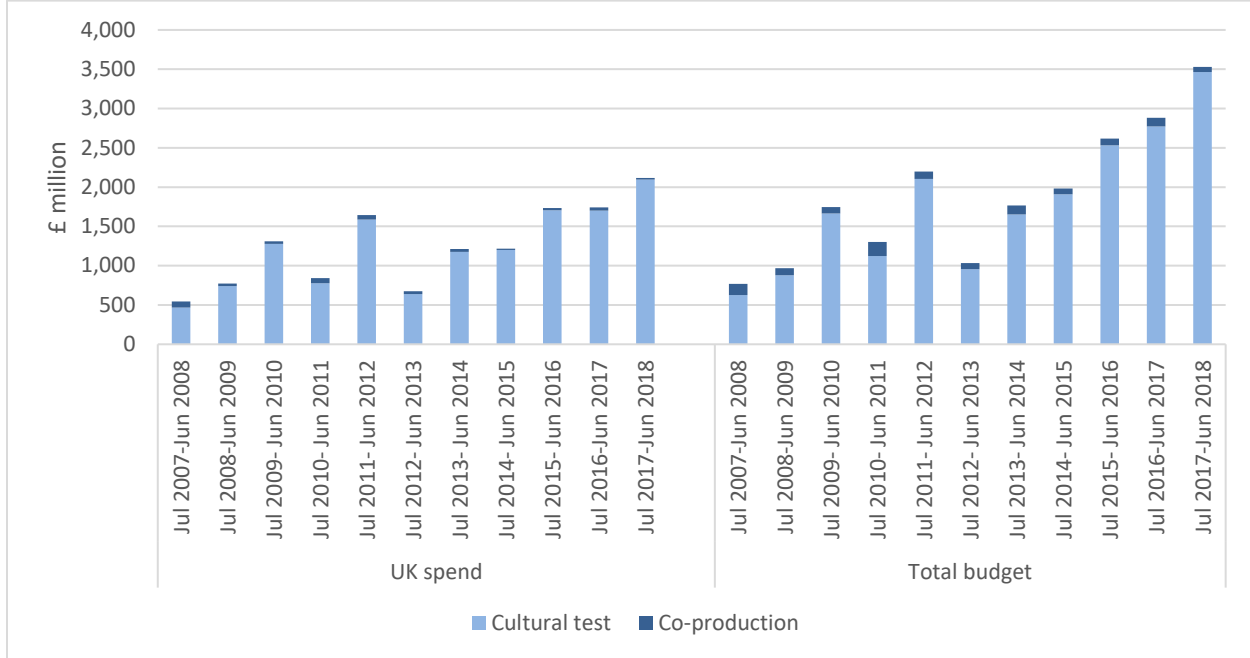
In July 2017-June 2018, 281 films were certified under the cultural test (up from 271 in the previous 12 months), with a UK spend of £2.1 billion and a total budget of £3.5 billion, the highest of the period (Figures 7 and 8). There were 18 official co-productions that received interim certification in July 2017-June 2018, down from 20 in the previous 12 months. These films had a UK spend of £22 million and a total budget of £64 million.

Figure 7 Number of interim certifications for film, rolling year, July 2007 to June 2018



Source: BFI
See Appendix A for supporting data

Figure 8 UK spend and total budget of interim certifications for film, rolling year, July 2007 to June 2018



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.

See Appendix A for supporting data

2.2 Total Budgets

The median budget for interim cultural test certifications decreased from £1.8 million in 2007 to £1.0 million in 2009 and since then has stayed around £0.9 million. The median budget increased to £1.1 million in H1 2018 (Table 2).

Table 2 Median budgets of interim cultural test certifications

Year	Median budget £m
2007	1.8
2008	1.6
2009	1.0
2010	1.1
2011	0.9
2012	1.0
2013	0.7
2014	0.9
2015	0.9
2016	0.8
2017	0.8
H1 2018	1.1

Source: BFI

Interim Cultural Test certifications have only been issued since 2007, when the new film tax relief came into effect.

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

Table 3 shows the median budget of interim co-productions since 2007. In H1 2018 the median budget was £2.2 million. Overall median budgets have fluctuated over the time period with 2011 having the lowest median budget, at £2.1 million, and the following year having the highest median budget at £6.1 million. This is, in part, due to there being a higher than usual number of co-productions with a budget between £5 million and £9.9 million.

Table 3 Median budgets of interim co-production certifications

Year	Median budget £m
2007	3.7
2008	4.7
2009	3.3
2010	3.7
2011	2.1
2012	6.1
2013	4.0
2014	3.4
2015	2.3
2016	2.3
2017	5.2
H1 2018	2.2

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

In H1 2018, the official co-production with final certification were ratified under the European Convention of Cinematographic Co-production (ECCC), UK/Canada and UK/France co-production treaties. The interim co-production films qualifying as official co-productions were all under the ECCC, UK/Australia, UK/Brazil and UK/New Zealand co-production treaties.

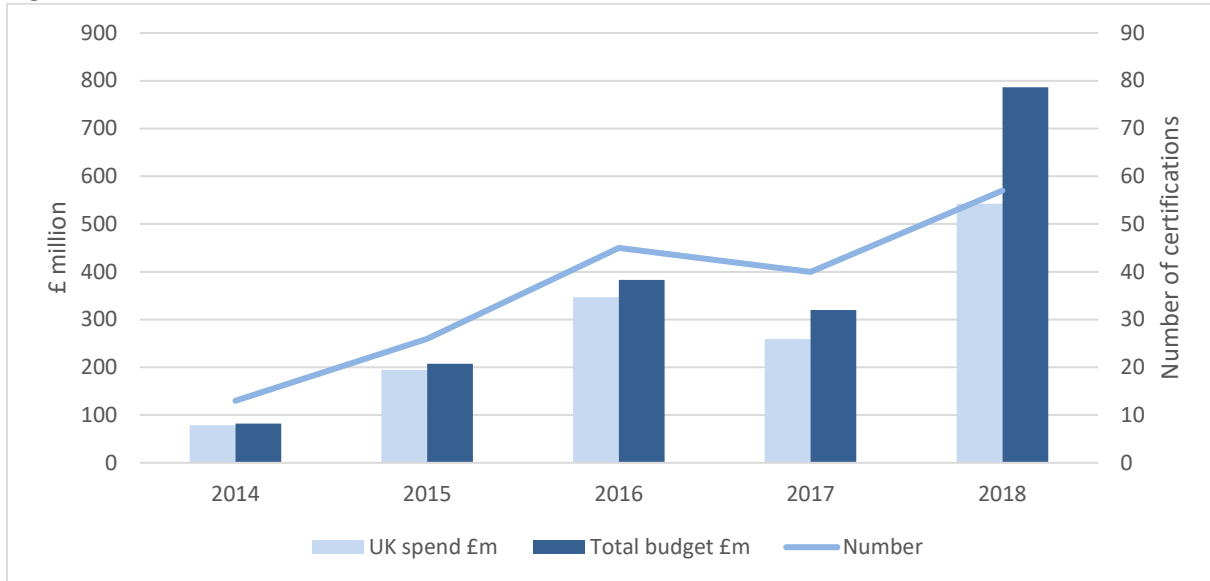
3. High-end television certifications

3.1 Certification – number of applications and values

3.1.1 Final certifications

A total of 57 HETV programmes received final certification under the cultural test in H1 2018, this is an increase from 40 in H1 2017. UK spend and total budget for programmes in H1 2018 was £542 million and £786 million respectively, more than double that of the previous half year. UK spend was 70% of total budget across all production (Figure 9). There were no HETV official co-productions with final certification in any half year since the ratification of the tax relief in 2014⁴.

Figure 9 Final cultural test certifications for HETV, H1 2014 to H1 2018



Source: BFI

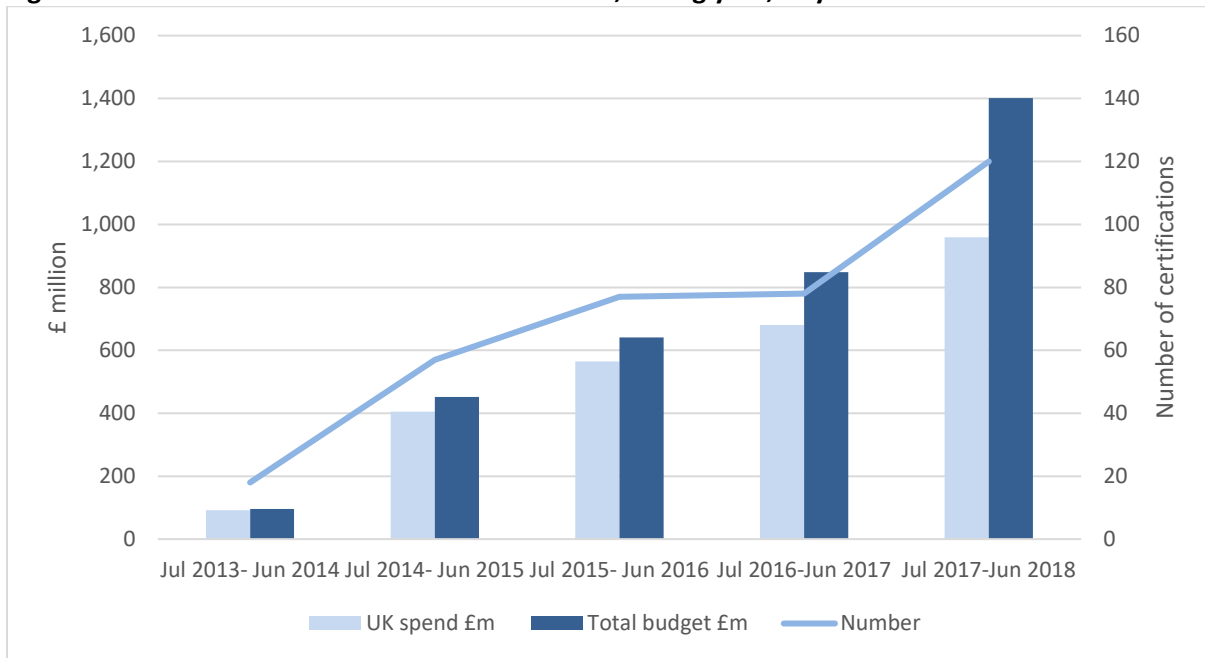
'Total Budget' is the sum of production activity in the UK and production activity outside the UK.

See Appendix A for supporting data

⁴ See Notes for outline of disclosure control rule.

In the rolling years between July 2013 and June 2018 there has been an upward trend in the number, and associated UK spend and budget, of HETV programmes receiving final certification under the cultural test (Figure 10). In July 2017-June 2018 the total number of programmes with final certification under the cultural test increased to 120 programmes from 78 for the previous 12 months. UK spend and budget also increased; UK spend increased by 41% to £0.96 billion and total budget increased by 65% to £1.4 billion. This is due to the increase in the number of UK/USA collaborations with large budgets (e.g. *Game of Thrones – Series 7, Tin Star* and *War Machine*).

Figure 10 Cultural test final certifications for HETV, rolling year, July 2013 to June 2018



Source BFI.

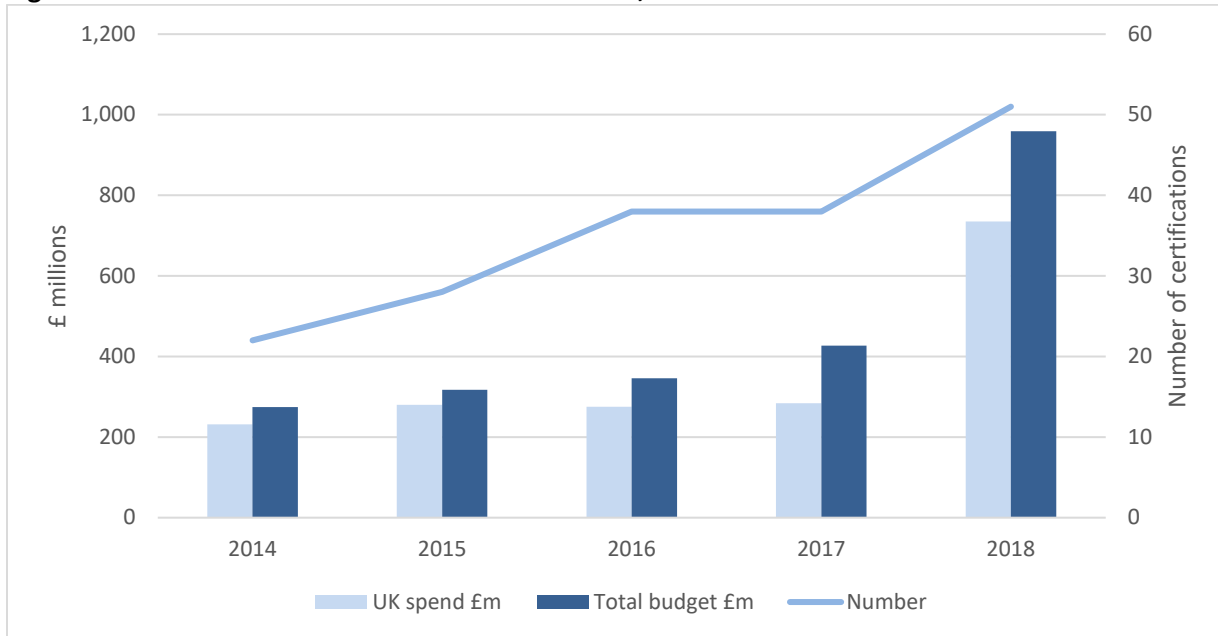
'Total budget' is the sum of production activity in the UK and production activity outside the UK.

See Appendix A for supporting data

3.1.2 Interim certifications

As with film, interim certifications indicate the expected future level of official UK HETV production. Overall there has been an upward trend in the number of programmes, UK spend and overall budget. In H1 2018, a total of 51 HETV programmes received interim certification under the cultural test (up from 38 in H1 2017), with a UK spend of £735 million and a total budget of £959 million (Figure 11). This is more than double UK spend and budget in H1 2017, when UK spend was £284 million and total budget was £427 million. There were no HETV official co-productions with interim certification in any half year since 2014; H1 2014 are not shown for disclosure control reasons.

Figure 11 Cultural test interim certification for HETV, H1 2014 to H1 2018

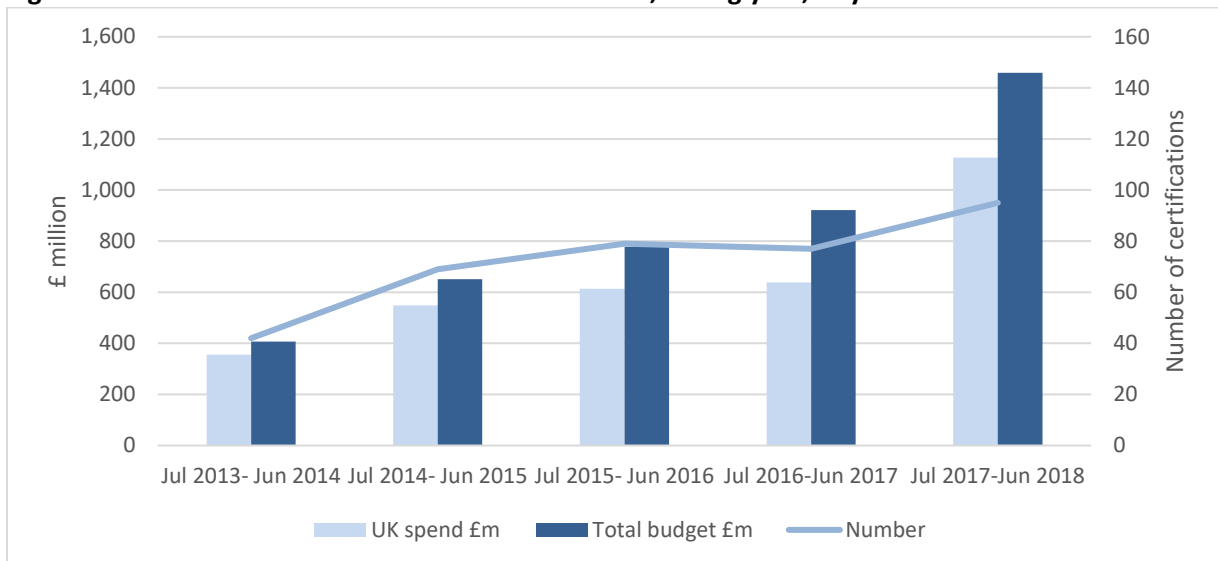


Source: BFI

'Total Budget' is the sum of production activity in the UK and production activity outside the UK. See Appendix A for supporting data

A total of 95 HETV programmes received interim certification under the cultural test in the rolling year July 2017-June 2018, with a UK spend and total budget of £1.1 billion and £1.5 billion respectively (Figure 12). UK spend as a percentage of total budget has increased from 69% to 77%. There has been an upward trend in number of programmes with interim certification and their associated UK spend and budget. There have been no HETV official co-productions with interim certification since July 2015-June 2016 and previous rolling years are not shown for disclosure reasons.

Figure 12 Cultural test interim certifications for HETV, rolling year, July 2013 to June 2018



Source: BFI

'Total Budget' is the sum of production activity in the UK and production activity outside the UK. See Appendix A for supporting data

3.2 Total Budgets

This release presents the median total budget per minute of content for HETV instead of median total budget⁵. The median budget per minute of interim cultural test HETV projects has increased from £22,243 since the start of the period, 2013 (when the HETV tax relief was introduced) to £29,855 in H1 2018., but this was variable over the period.

Table 4 Median budget per minute of interim HETV cultural test certifications

Year	Median budget per minute £¹
2013*	22,243
2014	21,759
2015	23,729
2016	22,289
2017	25,622
H1 2018	29,855

Source: BFI

¹ Median budget is actual amount, unlike film and video games certification median budget which is reported in £ million

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

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

3.3 Co-production treaties

As there were no official co-productions with final or interim certification in H1 2017, no treaties are reported.

⁵ 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 the Producers Alliance for Cinema and Television (Pact) regarding appropriate median budgets.

4. Animation programme certifications

4.1 Certification – number of applications and values

4.1.1 Final certifications

A total of 35 animation programmes received final certification under the cultural test in H1 2018, this is an increase from 20 in H1 2017 (Table 5). UK spend and total budget for programmes in H1 2018 were £35 million and £56 million respectively, up from £18 million and £21 million respectively in H1 2017. UK spend was 63% of total budget in H1 2018, the lowest of the period. Overall there has been an upward trend in the number of programmes receiving final certification and their associated UK spend and budget. Although data started being collected from April 2013, H1 2014 is not shown for disclosure reasons. There were no official co-productions with final certification in H1 2014 and H1 2015 and co-production data for H1 2016 to H1 2018 are not shown for disclosure reasons.

Table 5 Cultural test final certifications for animation programmes, H1 2014 to H1 2018

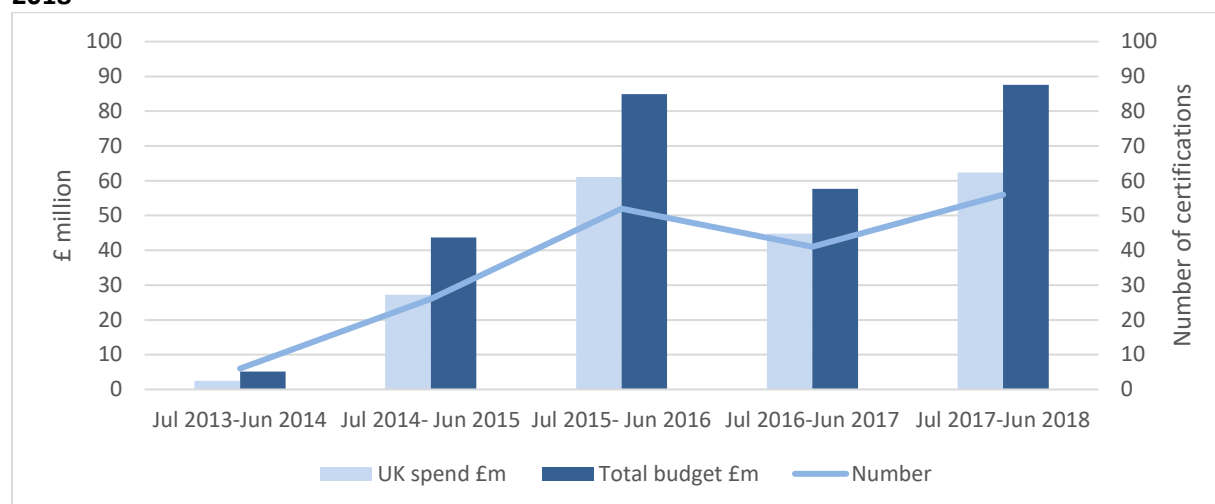
Year	Number	UK spend £m	Total budget £m	UK spend as a % of total budget
H1 2015	16	18.7	26.9	69.3
H1 2016	17	17.5	25.5	68.9
H1 2017	20	17.8	20.9	85.1
H1 2018	35	35.1	56.1	62.6

Source: BFI

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

In the rolling year July 2017-June 2018 a total of 56 animation programmes received final certification under the cultural test, up from 41 in the previous 12 months (Figure 13). UK spend and total budget, also up, were £62 million and £88 million, the highest of the period, July 2013 to June 2018. UK spend was 71% of total budget in the last 12 months. No official co-productions received final certification in July 2013 to June 2015; data for July 2015 to Jun 2018 are not shown for disclosure reasons.

Figure 13 Cultural test final certifications for animation programmes, rolling year July 2013 to June 2018



Source BFI.

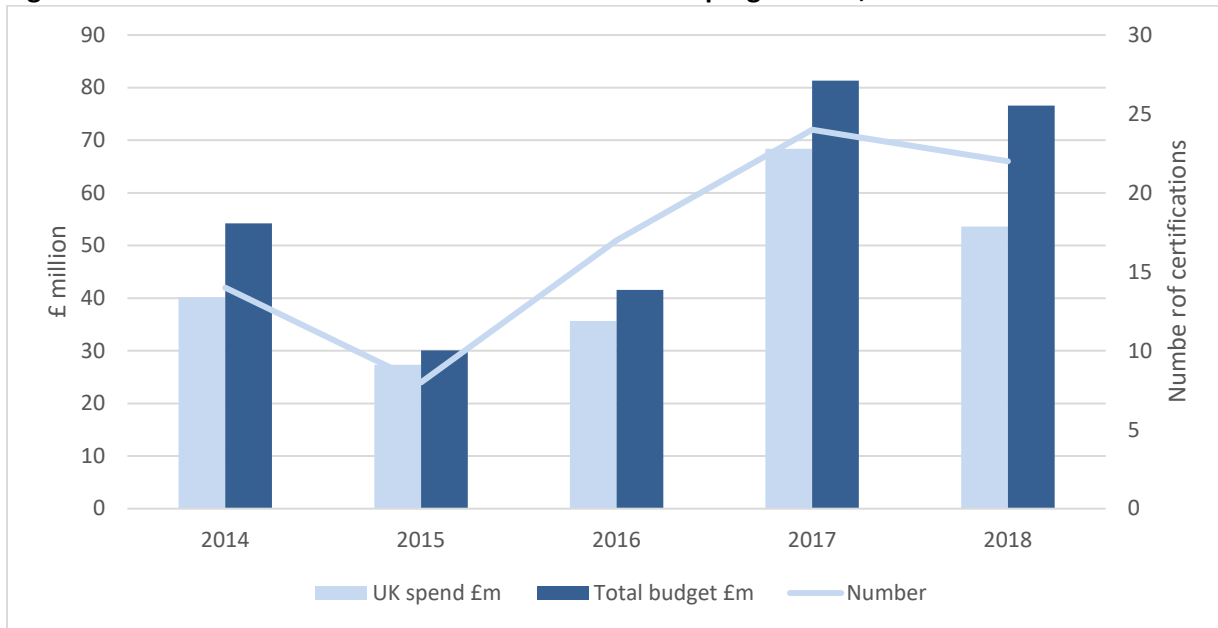
'Total budget' is the sum of production activity in the UK and production activity outside the UK.

See Appendix A for supporting data

4.1.2 Interim certifications

As with film and HETV, interim certifications are a pointer to the expected future level of (official) UK animation programme production. In H1 2018, a total of 22 animation programmes received interim certification under the cultural test, the second highest for any first half year. UK spend and budget were also the second highest at £54 million and of £77 million respectively (Figure 14). UK spend was 70% of budget, down from 84% in H1 2017. Overall, the trend in the number of programmes, UK spend and budget has varied over the period. No animation programme official co-productions received interim certification in H1 2014, H1 2015 and H1 2018; H1 2016 and H1 2017 data are not shown for disclosure reasons.

Figure 14 Cultural test interim certification for animation programmes, H1 2014 to H1 2018



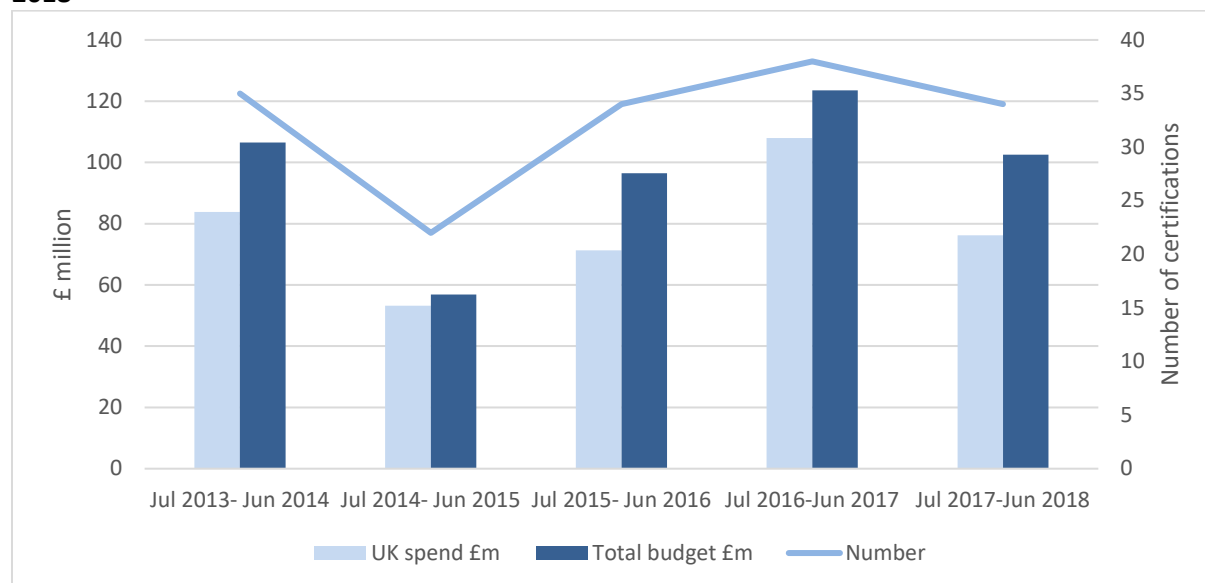
Source BFI.

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

See Appendix A for supporting data

In the rolling year, a total of 34 animation programmes were given interim certification under the cultural test, a fall from 38 in July 2016-June 2017 (Figure 15). UK spend and total budget for the period was £76 million and £103 million respectively. UK spend was 74% of budget, down from 87% in July 2016-June 2017. The trend for animation programmes being awarded interim certification has varied over the period. Six co-productions were given interim certification in July 2014-June 2015, but since then less than five animation programmes in each year have been given certification as an official co-production, as such, the data are not shown for disclosure control reasons.

Figure 15 Cultural test interim certification for animation programmes, rolling year, July 2013 to June 2018



Source BFI.

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

4.2 Total Budgets

This release presents the median total budget per minute of content for animation programmes instead of median total budget, as in previous releases⁶. The median budget per minute of interim cultural test animation programmes in H1 2018 was £8,417, the third highest of period, 2013-H1 2018 (Table 6). Overall there has been an upward trend in median budget per minute over the period.

Table 6 Median budget per minute of interim animation programme cultural test certifications

Year	Median budget per minute £ ¹
2013*	6,263
2014	9,367
2015	7,867
2016	7,708
2017	9,485
H1 2018	8,417

Source: BFI

¹ Median budget is actual amount, unlike film and video games certification median budget which is reported in £ million

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

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

4.3 Co-production treaties

Co-productions with final certification and those with interim certification in H1 2018 were all under the UK/Canada treaty.

⁶ Certification applications are received for one-off programmes as well as series (that can be any length of time), this median provides a better representation of the average animation programme budget. Advice was obtained from Pact regarding appropriate median budgets.

5. Children’s television programme certifications

5.1 Certification – number of applications and values

5.1.1 Final certifications

In H1 2018, 40 children’s television (CTV) programmes received final certification under the cultural test, with a UK spend of £43.7 million and a total budget of £44 million, making UK spend over 99% of budget (Table 6). This is an increase from 36 programmes in H1 2017; UK spend and total budget has more than doubled from £19.2 million and £19.4 million respectively. This is due, in part, to the increase in programmes with budgets greater than £1 million. No CTV co-productions have received final certification in H1 2016 and H1 2017 and data for H1 2018 are not shown for disclosure reasons.

Table 6 Cultural test final certification for CTV programmes, H1 2016 and H1 2018

Year	Number	UK spend £m	Total budget £m	UK spend as a % of total budget
H1 2016	22	16.1	16.1	100.0
H1 2017	36	19.2	19.4	99.0
H1 2018	40	43.7	44.0	99.4

Source BFI.

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

In July 2017-June 2018 a total of 69 CTV programmes received final certification under the cultural test, with a UK spend and total budget of £71 million and £74 million respectively, the highest since the start of the period, July 2015-June 2016. Data for July 2015-June 2016 are not shown for disclosure reasons. Data for official co-productions are not shown for disclosure control reasons.

Table 7 Cultural test final certification for CTV programmes, rolling year, July 2015 to June 2018

Year	Number	UK spend £m	Total budget £m	UK spend as a % of total budget
Jul 2015-Jun 2016	<5	c	c	c
Jul 2016-Jun 2017	50	28.2	28.7	98.1
Jul 2017-Jun 2018	69	70.7	74.5	94.9

Source BFI.

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

c data suppressed for disclosure reasons

5.1.2 Interim certifications

As with the other tax reliefs, interim certifications indicate the expected future level of official UK CTV programme production. In H1 2018, a total of 22 CTV programmes received interim certification under the cultural test, over a third more than the previous half year. UK spend increased by just under 55% to £39.0 million and total budget increased by 42% to £39.1 million (both the highest of any half year) making UK spend almost 100% of budget (Table 8). Co-productions with interim certification in H1 2016 are not shown for disclosure reasons, for the following half years, no co-productions received interim certification.

Table 8 Cultural test interim certification for CTV programmes, H1 2016 - H1 2018

Year	Number	UK spend £m	Total budget £m	UK spend as a % of total budget
H1 2016	17	19.4	20.0	96.5
H1 2017	16	25.2	27.5	91.6
H1 2018	22	39.0	39.1	99.8

Source BFI.

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

The number of CTV programme interim certifications increased from 29 in July 2016-June 2017 to 44 in July 2017-June 2018 (Table 9). UK spend increased by 72% to £71 million and total budget increased by 94% to £85 million in July 2017-June 2018. UK spend as a percentage of total budget has decreased from 94% to 83%. There were no official co-productions with interim certification in July 2015-June 2016 and since then, less than five co-productions have been given interim certification and therefore are not shown for disclosure reasons.

Table 9 Cultural test interim certification for CTV programmes, rolling year, July 2015 to June 2018

Year	Number	UK spend £m	Total budget £m	UK spend as a % of total budget
Jul 2015-Jun 2016	32	34.3	38.4	89.2
Jul 2016-Jun 2017	29	41.2	43.7	94.2
Jul 2017-Jun 2018	44	70.8	85.0	83.4

Source BFI.

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

5.2 Total Budgets

This release presents the median total budget per minute of content for CTV programmes instead of median total budget⁷. The median budget per minute of interim cultural test CTV programmes increased year on year until 2017, peaking at £3,045. In H1 2018, median budget per minute decreased slightly to £2,970 (Table 10).

Table 10 Median budget per minute of interim CTV programme cultural test certifications

Year	Median budget per minute £
2015*	2,433
2016	2,737
2017	3,045
H1 2018	2,970

Source: BFI

¹ Median budget is actual amount, unlike film and video games certification median budget which is reported in £ million

*As the tax relief for CTV commenced in April 2015, median budget for 2015 is for Q2-Q4.

As there are a very low number of official co-productions since the inception of the tax relief, median budget per minute for these productions cannot be reported for disclosure reasons.

⁷ Certification applications are received for one-off programmes as well as series (that can be 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.

5.3 Co-production treaties

Co-productions with final certification were ratified under the UK/Canada treaty. There are no co-productions with interim certification in H1 2018, so the treaties for these co-productions cannot be reported.

6. Video Games Certification

6.1 Certification – number of applications and values

6.1.1 Final certifications

A total of 87 video games received final certification in H1 2018, down from 114 in H1 2017 (Table 11). EEA/UK⁸ spend in H1 2018 was £70 million and total budget was £78 million, a decrease on the first half of 2017, from £84 million and £103 million respectively. EEA/UK spend in the first half of 2018 was 89% of budget. H1 2015 data are not shown for disclosure reasons. There are no co-production treaties for video games.

Table 11 Cultural test final certification for video games, H1 2015 to H1 2018

Year	Number	EEA/UK spend		EEA/UK spend as a % of total budget
		£m	Total budget £m	
H1 2016	90	99.1	112.6	88.0
H1 2017	114	84.0	102.9	81.6
H1 2018	87	69.9	78.4	89.0

Source: BFI

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

In the last rolling year, July 2017-June 2018, 185 video games received final certification, a decrease from 213 in July 2016-June 2017 (Table 12) However the EEA/UK spend and budget were £235 million and £253 million respectively in July 2017-June 2018, indicating an increase from £187 million and £215 million in the previous rolling year.

Table 12 Cultural test final certification for video games, rolling year, July 2014 to June 2018

Year	Number	EEA/UK spend		EEA/UK spend as a % of total budget
		£m	Total budget £m	
Jul 2014 - Jun 2015	41	29.9	31.7	94.3
Jul 2015 - Jun 2016	166	250.1	346.5	72.2
Jul 2016 - Jun 2017	213	187.0	214.7	87.1
Jul 2017 - Jun 2018	185	234.7	253.1	92.7

Source: BFI

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

6.1.2 Interim certifications

For interim certification, in H1 2018, 77 video games received interim certification under the cultural test, with EEA/UK spend of £274 million and total budget of £830 million (Table 13). The number of video games has decreased from 86 video games with certification in H1 2017, whereas EEA/UK spend and budget has increased from £200 million and £216 million respectively. The substantial increase in total budget and apparent decrease in UK spend as a percentage of the total is due to a very small number of developments with very high budgets.

⁸ 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 13 Cultural test interim certification for video games, H1 2015 to H1 2018

Period	Number	EEA/UK spend £m	Total budget £m	EEA/UK spend as a % of total budget
H1 2015	49	260.1	284.0	91.6
H1 2016	106	266.4	322.9	82.5
H1 2017	86	200.5	215.7	93.0
H1 2018	77	274.4	830.2	33.1

Source: BFI

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

In the rolling year July 2017-June 2018, 172 video games received interim certification with an expected EEA/UK spend of £0.5 billion and a total budget of £1.1 billion (Table 14). This is an increase from 156 video games in July 2016-June 2017 with a UK spend of £336 million and a budget of £360 million. As observed in the H1 2018 data, the increase is skewed by a small number of video games with very high development budgets.

Table 14 Cultural test interim certification for video games, July 2014 to June 2018

Year	Number	UK spend £m	Total budget £m	UK spend as a % of total budget
Jul 2014- Jun 2015	72	304.8	330.1	92.3
Jul 2015- Jun 2016	178	554.3	642.5	86.3
Jul 2016-Jun 2017	156	335.8	359.7	93.3
Jul 2017-Jun 2018	172	509.7	1,077.7	47.3

Source: BFI

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

6.2 Total Budgets

Median budget in H1 2018 was £0.4 million. Since 2016 median budget has stayed around £0.4 million (Table 15).

Table 15 Median budgets of interim video game cultural test certifications

Year	Median budget £m
2014*	0.2
2015	0.6
2016	0.4
2017	0.4
H1 2018	0.4

Source: BFI

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

Appendix A

Table A1 Final certifications for film, H1 2007 to H1 2018

Type of certification	H1											
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Cultural Test												
Number	42	37	71	74	93	91	88	117	100	150	129	159
UK spend	92.3	176.4	158.4	528.7	419.9	492.0	160.9	684.4	259.2	647.6	1,223.0	699.5
Total budget	113.2	299.7	202.6	574.2	670.8	685.6	186.3	1,068.2	326.3	1,057.9	1,632.7	1,407.8
UK spend as a % of total budget	81.5	58.8	78.2	92.1	62.6	71.8	86.4	64.1	79.4	61.2	74.2	49.7
Co-production												
Number	42	2*	6	13	11	5	7	9	5	<5	6	5
UK spend £m	98.5	8.8	20.2	38.0	43.6	10.6	7.4	12.2	12.8	c	13.2	7.6
Total budget £m	284.0	12.7	44.7	75.7	73.1	20.1	20.2	26.9	40.9	c	33.0	16.7
UK spend as a % of total budget	34.7	69.3	45.3	50.1	59.6	52.9	36.7	45.3	31.2	c	39.9	45.7
All Types												
Number	84	39	77	87	104	96	95	126	105	c	135	164
UK spend £m	190.8	185.1	178.6	566.7	463.5	502.6	168.4	696.6	272.0	c	1236.1	707.1
Total budget £m	397.2	312.4	247.3	649.9	743.9	705.7	206.5	1,095.0	367.3	c	1,665.8	1,424.5
UK spend as a % of total budget	48.0	59.3	72.2	87.2	62.3	71.2	81.5	63.6	74.1	c	74.2	49.6

Source: BFI

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

* Number of co-productions for H1 2008 is less than the disclosure control threshold of five, the value is kept in the table because it has been in the public domain since 2010, following the guidance of the UK Statistics Authority Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

c data suppressed for disclosure reasons.

'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.

H1 is the first half of the year, i.e. 1 January to 30 June.

Table A2 Final certifications for film, rolling year, from July 2007 to June 2018

Type of certification	Jul 2007- Jun 2008	Jul 2008- Jun 2009	Jul 2009- Jun 2010	Jul 2010- Jun 2011	Jul 2011- Jun 2012	Jul 2012- Jun 2013	Jul 2013- Jun 2014	Jul 2014- Jun 2015	Jul 2015- Jun 2016	Jul 2016- Jun 2017	Jul 2017- Jun 2018
Cultural Test											
Number	93	131	147	189	187	184	211	221	288	248	312
UK spend £m	526.4	570.5	793.3	745.0	1,550.5	503.2	1,564.6	827.6	1,348.3	1,511.7	1,321.5
Total budget £m	747.9	838.0	976.4	1,098.3	2,133.1	670.5	2,235.2	1,114.1	2,176.4	2,107.6	2,356.2
UK spend as a % of total budget	70.4	68.1	81.2	67.8	72.7	75.0	70.0	74.3	61.9	71.7	56.1
Co-production											
Number	16	12	15	17	8	15	19	11	13	10	10
UK spend £m	33.4	45.5	39.3	56.9	22.1	41.1	70.0	40.6	27.7	26.3	16.7
Total budget £m	85.4	77.2	79.0	134.8	78.4	73.6	119.3	82.3	70.0	82.1	49.8
UK spend as a % of total budget	39.1	58.9	49.8	42.2	28.2	55.8	58.7	49.3	39.6	32.1	33.5
All Types											
Number	109	143	162	206	195	199	230	232	301	258	322
UK spend £m	559.8	616.0	832.6	801.9	1,572.6	544.2	1,634.6	868.2	1,376.0	1,538.0	1,338.1
Total budget £m	833.3	915.2	1,055.4	1,233.1	2,211.5	744.0	2,354.5	1,196.4	2,246.4	2,189.7	2,406.0
UK spend as a % of total budget	67.2	67.3	78.9	65.0	71.1	73.1	69.4	72.6	61.3	70.2	55.6

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

Table A3 Interim cultural test certifications for film, H1 2007 to H1 2018

Type of certification	H1											
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Cultural Test												
Number	49	58	62	63	67	82	87	92	123	113	124	118
UK spend	494.1	181.6	257.6	250.3	259.2	576.3	292.1	660.7	693.8	616.8	913.7	908.3
Total budget	707.8	261.2	284.1	385.3	344.4	849.2	462.4	983.8	1,171.7	913.2	1503.7	1,290.0
UK spend as a % of total budget	69.8	69.5	90.7	65.0	75.3	67.9	63.2	67.2	59.2	67.5	60.8	70.4
Co-production												
Number	8	9	7	11	12	8	7	8	9	10	9	12
UK spend £m	12.6	30.7	17.3	24.1	21.5	46.8	26.7	14.1	10.1	14.8	27.4	9.51
Total budget £m	30.2	65.4	48.5	55.3	43.5	77.1	39.2	37.4	39.9	52.7	57.7	34.7
UK spend as a % of total budget	41.7	47.0	35.7	43.5	49.4	60.7	68.1	37.8	25.4	28.0	47.6	27.4
All Types												
Number	57	67	69	74	79	90	94	100	132	123	133	130
UK spend £m	506.7	212.3	275.0	274.3	280.7	623.1	318.8	674.9	703.9	631.6	941.1	917.8
Total budget £m	738.1	326.6	332.6	440.6	387.9	926.2	501.6	1,021.2	1,211.6	965.9	1,561.4	1,324.7
UK spend as a % of total budget	68.7	65.0	82.7	62.3	72.4	67.3	63.6	66.1	58.1	65.4	60.3	69.3

Source: BFI

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

Table A4 Interim certifications for film, rolling year, from July 2007 to June 2018

Type of certification	Jul 2007- Jun 2008	Jul 2008- Jun 2009	Jul 2009- Jun 2010	Jul 2010- Jun 2011	Jul 2011- Jun 2012	Jul 2012- Jun 2013	Jul 2013- Jun 2014	Jul 2014- Jun 2015	Jul 2015- Jun 2016	Jul 2016- Jun 2017	Jul 2017- Jun 2018
Cultural Test											
Number	108	124	144	146	163	158	194	196	252	272	281
UK spend £m	465.4	740.5	1,276.1	775.4	1,588.7	636.8	1,175.1	1,198.3	1,704.2	1,699.4	2,095.8
Total budget £m	626.0	880.4	1,664.6	1,124.4	2,103.7	956.0	1,650.7	1,908.9	2,533.4	2,773.5	3,465.7
UK spend as a % of total budget	74.4	84.1	76.7	69.0	75.5	66.6	71.2	62.8	67.3	61.3	60.5
Co-production											
Number	21	13	18.0	24	14	15	20	17	23	20	18
UK spend £m	79.7	32.3	34.8	68.4	53.7	39.7	37.7	18.8	30.1	44.4	21.53
Total budget £m	141.8	89.7	81.5	176.1	96.1	76.5	114.8	73.7	84.0	107.2	64.2
UK spend as a % of total budget	56.2	36.0	42.7	38.9	55.9	51.9	32.8	25.5	35.8	41.5	33.6
All Types											
Number	129	137	162	170	177	173	214	213	275	292	299
UK spend £m	545.1	772.8	1,311.0	843.9	1,642.4	676.5	1,212.8	1,217.1	1,734.2	1,743.8	2,117.3
Total budget £m	767.8	970.1	1,746.1	1,300.5	2,199.8	1,032.5	1,765.5	1,982.6	2,617.4	2,880.7	3,529.9
UK spend as a % of total budget	71.0	79.7	75.1	64.9	74.7	65.5	68.7	61.4	66.3	60.5	60.0

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.

Table A5 Cultural test final certifications for HETV, H1 2014-H1 2018

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number	13	26	45	40	57
UK spend £m	78.7	195.0	347.0	258.8	542.3
Total budget £m	82.3	207.2	382.9	319.8	786.4
UK spend as a % of total budget	95.6	94.1	90.6	80.9	70.0

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

Table A6 Cultural test final certifications for HETV, rolling year, from July 2013 to June 2018

	Jul 2013- Jun 2014	Jul 2014- Jun 2015	Jul 2015- Jun 2016	Jul 2016- Jun 2017	Jul 2017- Jun 2018
Number	18	57	77	78	120
UK spend £m	91.9	404.5	564.7	680.7	959.1
Total budget £m	95.5	451.7	640.5	848.3	1,401.7
UK spend as a % of total budget	96.2	89.6	88.2	80.2	68.4

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

Table A7 Cultural test interim certifications for HETV, H1 2014-H1 2018

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number	22	28	38	38	51
UK spend £m	231.6	279.8	275.0	283.9	735.2
Total budget £m	274.3	317.4	345.9	427.2	959.2
UK spend as a % of total budget	84.4	88.2	79.5	66.5	76.7

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

Table A8 Cultural test interim certifications for HETV, rolling year, from July 2013 to June 2018

	Jul 2013- Jun 2014	Jul 2014- Jun 2015	Jul 2015- Jun 2016	Jul 2016- Jun 2017	Jul 2017- Jun 2018
Number	42	69	79	77	95
UK spend £m	355.0	549.0	613.3	638.2	1,126.5
Total budget £m	406.2	651.7	777.2	921.1	1,458.5
UK spend as a % of total budget	87.4	84.2	78.9	69.3	77.2

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

Table A9 Cultural test final certifications for animation television programmes, rolling year, from July 2013 to June 2018

	Jul 2013- Jun 2014	Jul 2014- Jun 2015	Jul 2015- Jun 2016	Jul 2016- Jun 2017	Jul 2017- Jun 2018
Number	6	26	52	41	56
UK spend £m	2.4	27.2	61.1	44.8	62.4
Total budget £m	5.2	43.7	84.9	57.7	87.6
UK spend as a % of total budget	47.1	62.2	71.9	77.6	71.2

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

Table A10 Cultural test interim certifications for animation television programmes, H1 2014-H1 2018

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number	14	8	17	24	22
UK spend £m	40.1	27.3	35.7	68.4	53.6
Total budget £m	54.2	30.1	41.6	81.3	76.6
UK spend as a % of total budget	74.0	90.9	85.8	84.0	70.0

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

Table A11 Cultural test interim certifications for animation television programmes, rolling year, from July 2013 to June 2018

	Jul 2013- Jun 2014	Jul 2014- Jun 2015	Jul 2015- Jun 2016	Jul 2016- Jun 2017	Jul 2017- Jun 2018
Number	35	22	34	38	34
UK spend £m	83.8	53.2	71.3	108.0	76.2
Total budget £m	106.5	56.8	96.5	123.5	102.5
UK spend as a % of total budget	78.7	93.5	73.9	87.4	74.3

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

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. 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>.

In comparison to film and other screen sector production statistics, certification statistics are based on date on which the film, programme or video games received certification, whereas production statistics are based on date of principal photography

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 game data (number of films, programmes and video games, UK spend, UK/EEA spend, total budget and median) are not disclosed when the number of films, programmes or video games is five or fewer. In the case where data that would be disclosive has already been released into the public domain, this data is shown within the release, with an accompanying note.

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. Statistical contact details

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