

British film and other screen sector certification January-September (Q1-Q3) 2015

BFI Research and Statistics Unit

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1. Key Points

- In Q1-Q3 2015 180 films received final certification, with a UK spend of £698 million and a total budget of £968 million. UK spend was 72% of total budget.
- Of these, 171 were cultural test films, with a UK spend of £678 million and total budget of £911 million; nine films were co-productions, with a UK spend of £20 million and total budget of £57 million.
- In the last 12 months, October 2014-September 2015, 250 films received final certification, with a UK spend of £1,183 million and a total budget of £1,642 million.
- A total of 48 high-end television programmes received final certification under the cultural test in Q1-Q3 2015, with a UK spend of £306 million and a total budget was £328 million. UK spend was 93% of total budget.
- Since October 2014, 64 high-end television programmes have received final certification under the cultural test with a UK spend of £436 million and a total budget of £487 million.
- There were 29 animation programmes with final certification, all under the cultural test in Q1-Q3 2015, with a UK spend of £36 million and total budget of £53 million. UK spend was 68% of total budget.
- In Q1-Q3 2015, 77 video games received final certification with an EEA/UK spend of £47 million and a total budget of £49 million. EEA/UK spend was 95% of total budget.

2. Feature film certification

2.1 Certification - numbers of applications and values

2.1.1 Final certifications

A total of 180 films received final certification in January-September (Q1-Q3) 2015, down from 184 in Q1-Q3 2014. The majority, 171, were cultural test films and the remaining nine films were certified as co-productions (Table 1 and Figures 1 and 2).

The total UK spend and budget of films with final certification in Q1-Q3 2015 was £698 million and £968 million respectively. UK spend, as a percentage of budget was 72%. The majority of the UK spend and budget were from films certified under the cultural test; UK spend at £678 million was 74% of budget (70% of total budget for all films) and budget for cultural test films, at £911 million was 94% 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 is influenced by the number and timing of inward investment UK/USA productions. Co-production films had a much smaller UK spend and budget at £20 million and £57 million respectively, a decrease from £36 million and £54 million in Q1-Q3 2014.

¹ The latest production statistics are published separately in *Film and other screen sector production in the UK, January-September 2015*.

Table 1: Final certifications for film, Q1-Q3 2007 to Q1-Q3 2015

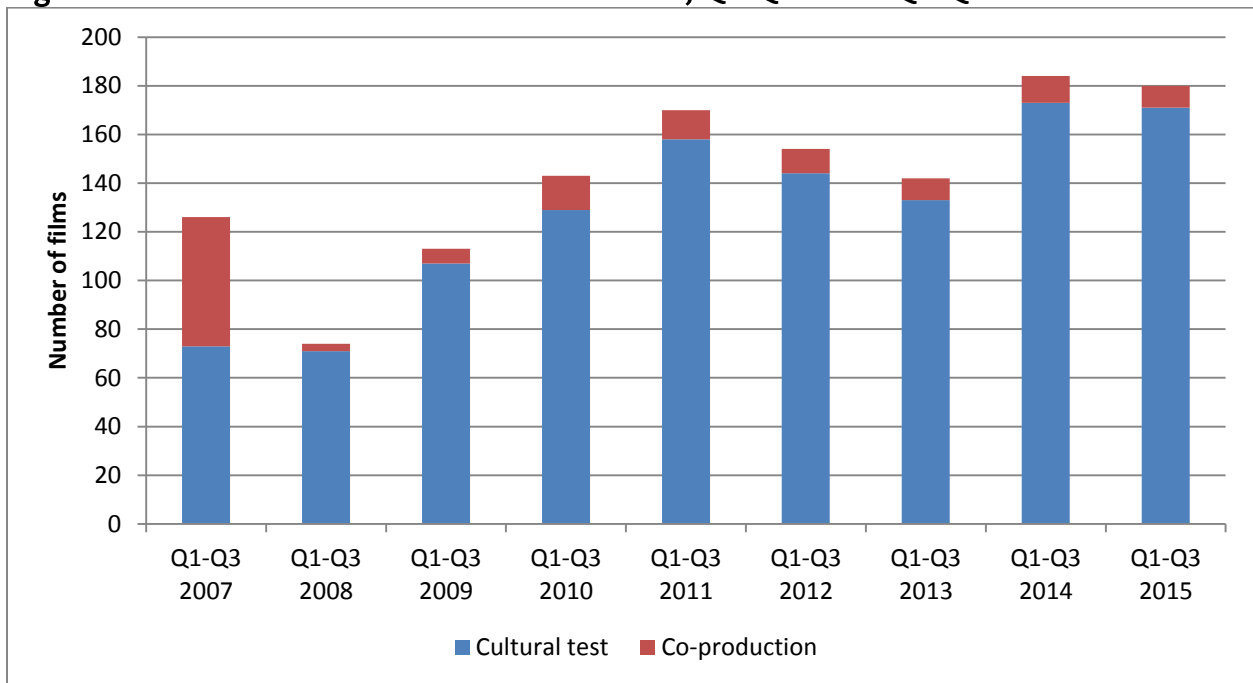
Type of certification	Q1-Q3								
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Cultural test									
Number	73	71	107	129	158	144	133	173	171
UK spend £m	194.9	256.2	273.4	709.7	1,267.9	548.6	531.0	772.2	677.8
Total budget £m	270.2	405.4	369.3	831.8	1,731.2	752.4	678.3	1,196.4	911.4
UK spend as % of total budget	72.1	63.2	74.0	85.3	73.2	72.9	78.3	64.5	74.4
Co-production									
Number	53	3	6	14	12	10	9	11	9
UK spend £m	119.6	9.9	20.2	43.7	47.3	28.4	13.7	35.8	20.1
Total budget £m	348.7	14.1	44.7	101.4	77.8	43.4	35.2	54.2	56.6
UK spend as % of total budget	34.3	70.1	45.3	43.1	60.7	65.5	38.8	66.0	35.5
All types									
Number	126	74	113	143	170	154	142	184	180
UK spend £m	314.5	266.1	293.7	753.4	1,315.1	577.0	544.7	808.0	698.0
Total budget £m	618.9	419.5	413.9	933.2	1,809.0	795.8	713.5	1,250.7	968.0
UK spend as % of total budget	50.8	63.4	70.9	80.7	72.7	72.5	76.3	64.6	72.1

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.

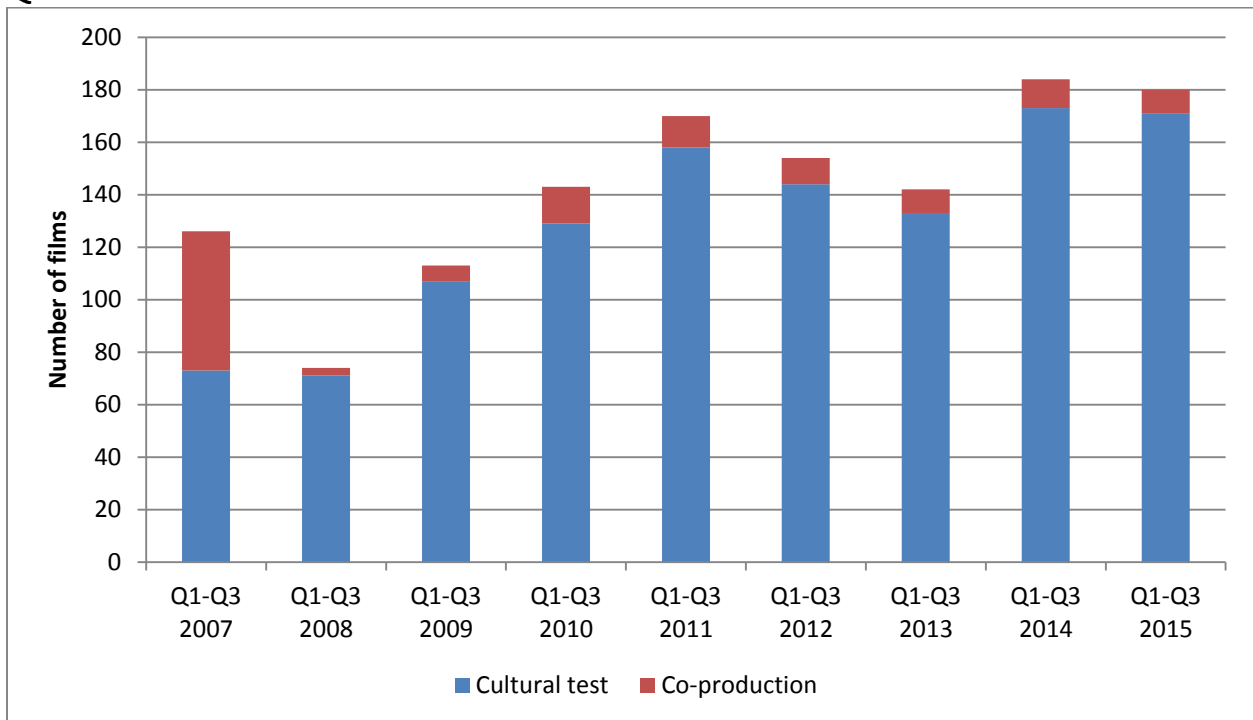
Q1-Q3 is the first nine months of the year, i.e. 1 January to 30 September.

Figure 1 Number of final certifications for film, Q1-Q3 2007- Q1-Q3 2015



Source: BFI

Figure 2 UK spend and total budget of final certifications for film, Q1-Q3 2007- Q1-Q3 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.

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 October 2007. Rolling year data give a broader representation of certification trends. In this release the rolling year period covered is October 2007-September 2008 to October 2014- September 2015.

The number of final certifications has increased rolling year on rolling year since October 2007, except in October 2011-September 2012 where there was a decrease from 216 to 187 films. The last 12 months (October 2014-September 2015) saw the highest number of films with final certification at 250 (Table 1 and Figures 2 and 3).

Overall, there has been a fluctuating trend for UK spend and budget over the period, with October 2010-September 2011 and October 2013-September 2014 as stand-out years. These years saw a higher than usual number of UK studio-backed and independent films receive final certification, such as *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Parts 1 & 2*, *London Boulevard*, *Maleficent* and *The Counselor*. UK spend increased from £517 million in October 2007-September 2008 to £1,467 million in October 2010-September 2011, the highest of the time period. Following this, UK spend fell to £795 million in October 2010-September 2011, and then increased to £1,370 million in October 2013-September 2014. In October 2014-September 2015, UK spend was £1,183 million. Total budget increased from £719 million in October 2007-September 2008 to a peak of £2,015 million in October 2010-September 2011. After this, budget decreased to £1,161 million in October 2011-September 2012, and then increased to £2,003 million in October 2013-September 2014. In October 2014-September 2015, total budget was £1,642 million.

The number of films receiving final certification under the cultural test in October 2014-September 2015 was 237, with a UK spend of £1,159 million and a total budget of £1,571 million (both being the third highest in the time period). Similar to all final certifications, October 2010-September 2011 (UK spend at £1,412 million and budget at £1,901 million) October 2013-September 2014 (UK spend at £1,282 million and budget at £1,871 million) are stand-out years.

October 2014-September 2015 saw 13 official co-productions receive final certification, with a UK spend of £24 million and budget of £71 million. The number of co-productions, UK spend and total budget has fluctuated over the time period, with the number of co-production peaking at 19 in October 2013-September 2014. This year also had the highest UK spend and budget at £87 million and £132 million respectively.

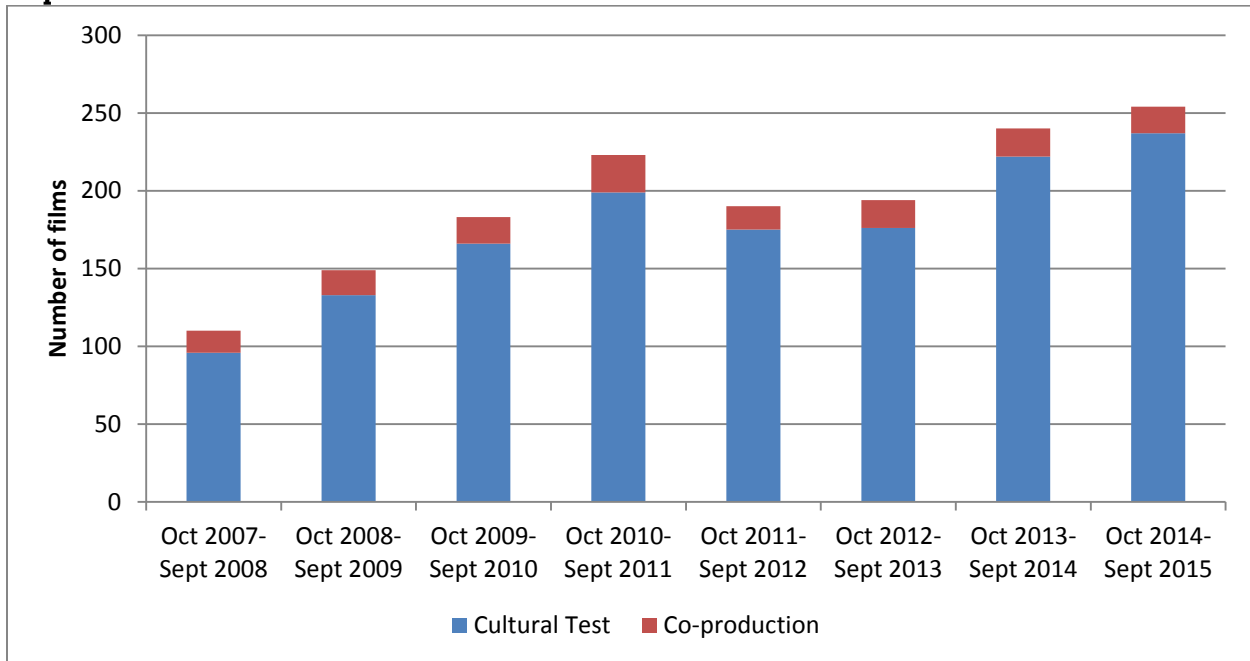
Table 2 Final certifications for film, rolling year, from October 2007 to September 2015

Type of certification	Oct 2007- Sept 2008	Oct 2008- Sept 2009	Oct 2009- Sept 2010	Oct 2010- Sept 2011	Oct 2011- Sept 2012	Oct 2012- Sept 2013	Oct 2013- Sept 2014	Oct 2014- Sept 2015
Cultural Test								
Number	96	133	166	199	175	176	222	237
UK spend £m	503.7	605.7	859.2	1,411.9	759.2	816.6	1,282.4	1,158.6
Total budget £m	696.6	899.0	1,067.3	1,901.1	1,139.5	1,095.6	1,871.4	1,571.1
UK spend as a % of total budget	72.3	67.4	80.5	74.3	66.6	74.5	68.5	73.7
Co-production								
Number	6	11	16	17	12	12	19	13
UK spend £m	13.4	45.7	45.0	54.9	36.2	29.6	87.4	24.3
Total budget £m	22.1	79.1	104.8	113.8	96.9	65.3	131.7	70.6
UK spend as a % of total budget	60.8	57.8	43.0	48.2	37.3	45.2	66.4	34.4
All Types								
Number	102	144	182	216	187	188	241	250
UK spend £m	517.1	651.4	904.3	1,466.8	795.3	846.2	1,369.8	1,182.9
Total budget £m	718.7	978.1	1,172.1	2,014.9	1,236.5	1,160.9	2,003.1	1,641.7
UK spend as a % of total budget	72.0	66.6	77.2	72.8	64.3	72.9	68.4	72.1

Source: BFI

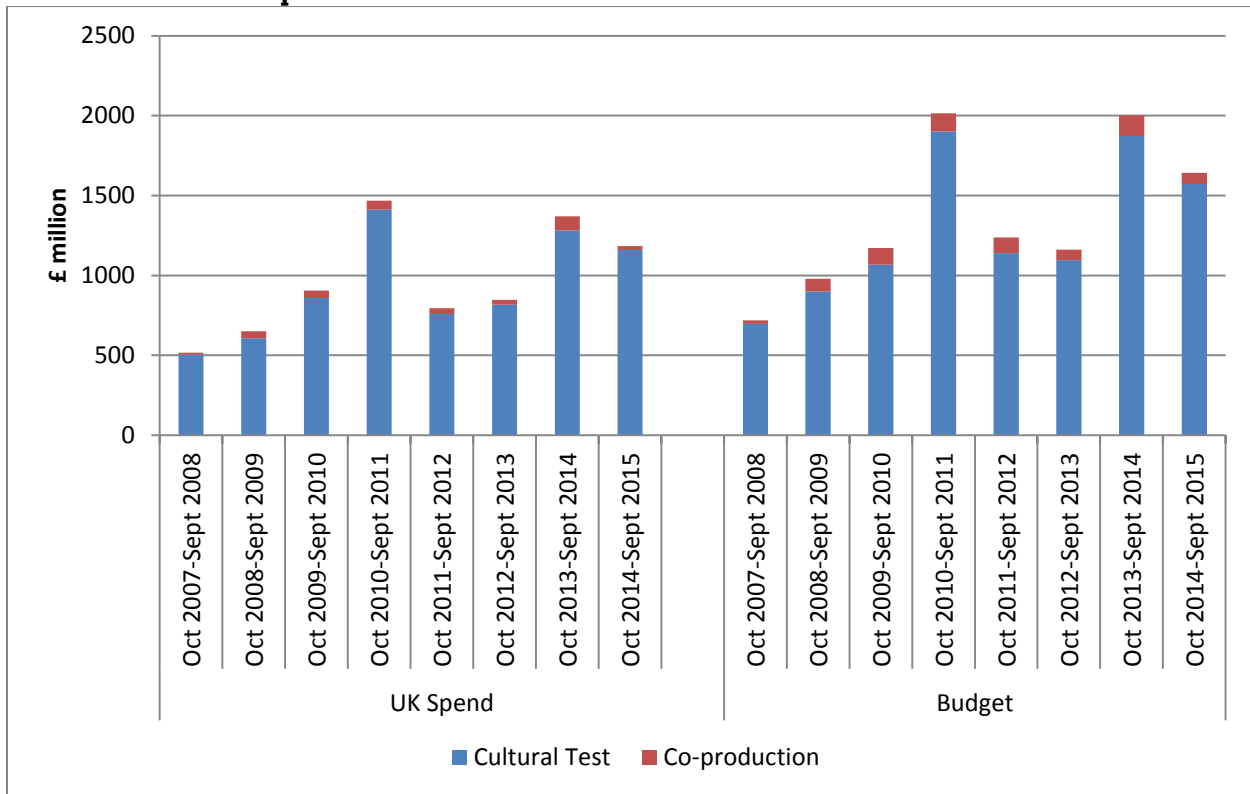
'Total Budget' in the case of cultural test films is the sum of production activity in the UK and production activity outside the UK; in the case of co-production it is the sum of investments made by all participating countries in the film.

Figure 3 Number of final certifications for film, rolling year, October 2007 to September 2015



Source: BFI

Figure 4 UK spend and total budget of final certifications for film, rolling year, October 2007 to September 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

Interim certifications give an indication of the future level of official UK film production. Table 3 shows the numbers, UK spend and production value of films receiving interim certification in Q1-Q3 2007- Q1-Q3 2015. The number of interim-certified films was the highest of the time period in Q1-Q3 2015 at 218. The number of cultural test films was also at it highest at 205, whereas the number of co-productions was at a similar level as Q1-Q3 2014, at 13 films.

The expected UK spend of interim-certified films was £1,412 million and total budget was £2,210 million, both the highest of the period. The majority of the expected UK spend and budget was from films certified under the cultural test, which had a UK spend of £1,398 million and a total budget of £2,161 million (98% of total budget for all films). Co-productions, as with final certifications, had a much smaller UK spend and budget, at £14 million and £49 million respectively. This was down from £19 million UK spend and £53 million budget in Q1-Q3 2014. Both UK spend and budget were the lowest of the period (Figures 5 and 6).

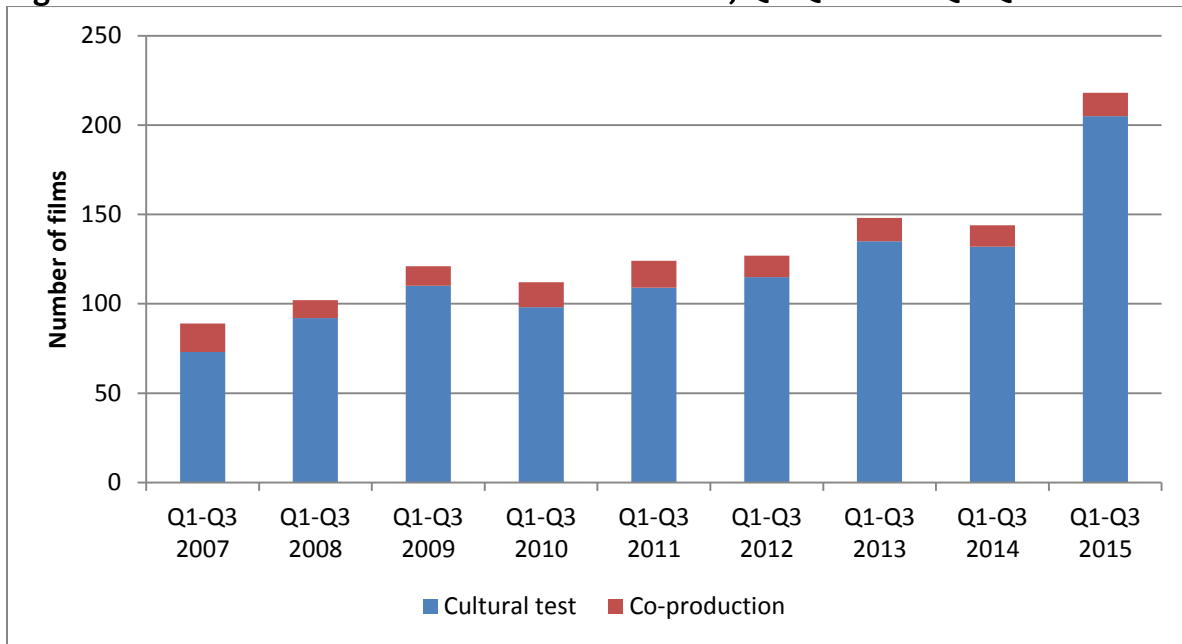
Table 3: Interim certifications for film, Q1-Q3 2007 to Q1-Q3 2015

Type of certification	Q1-Q3								
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Cultural test									
Number	73	92	110	98	109	115	135	132	205
UK spend £m	601.4	499.1	619.0	405.8	565.7	801.9	646.5	919.5	1,397.8
Total budget £m	834.8	600.3	836.5	680.8	715.7	1,135.1	873.9	1,339.8	2,160.8
UK spend as % of total budget	72.0	83.1	74.0	59.6	79.0	70.6	74.0	68.6	64.7
Co-production									
Number	16	10	11	14	15	12	13	12	13
UK spend £m	41.1	33.9	25.8	28.6	24.0	49.8	43.3	19.2	14.2
Total budget £m	72.4	73.5	68.8	70.6	50.7	93.0	95.5	53.4	49.1
UK spend as % of total budget	56.8	46.1	37.4	40.4	47.4	53.5	45.4	35.9	29.0
All types									
Number	89	102	121	112	124	127	148	144	218
UK spend £m	642.5	533.0	644.7	434.4	589.8	851.7	689.9	938.6	1,412.0
Total budget £m	907.2	673.8	905.3	751.5	766.4	1,228.1	969.4	1,393.2	2,209.9
UK spend as % of total budget	70.8	79.1	71.2	57.8	77.0	69.3	71.2	67.4	63.9

Source: BFI

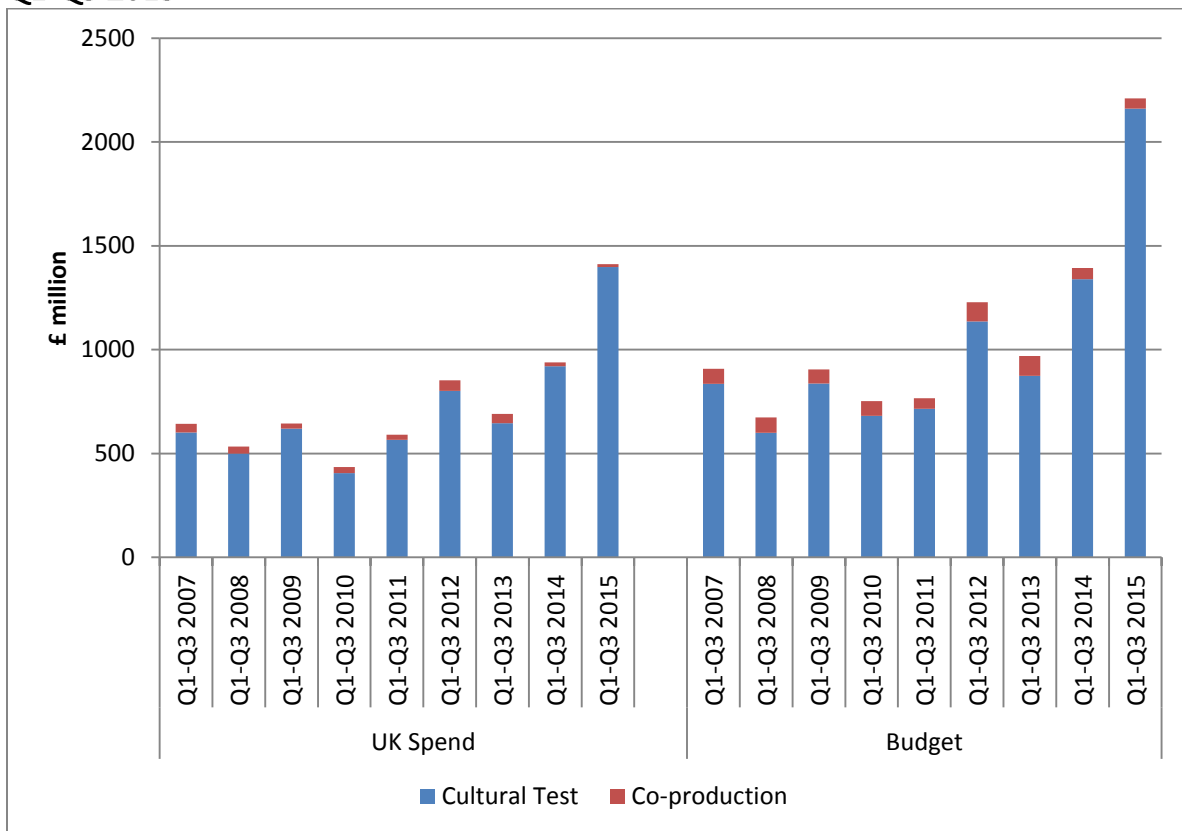
'Total Budget' in the case of Cultural test films is the sum of production activity in the UK and production activity outside the UK; in the case of Co-productions it is the sum of investments made by all participating countries in the film.

Figure 5 Number of interim certifications for film, Q1-Q3 2007- Q1-Q3 2015



Source: BFI

Figure 6 UK spend and total budget of interim certifications for film, Q1-Q3 2007- Q1-Q3 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.

In the rolling years, there was an upward trend in the number of films with interim certification over the period October 2007-September 2008 to October 2014-September 2015, from 132 to 256 films. In the last 12 months there has been a substantial increase of 52 films, from 204 films in October 2013-September 2014 (Table 4 and Figure 5).

There has been a fluctuating trend in UK spend and budget over the time period. The latest 12 month period has been the stand out year, with UK spend at £1,662 million, with total budget at £2,609 million, increasing from £1,105 and £1,670 respectively in October 2013-September 2014 (Figure 6).

There were 239 cultural test films in October 2014- September 2015, the highest of the period. UK spend was £1,644 million and total budget was £2,542 million. There were 17 official co-productions that received interim certification in October 2014-September 2015, with a UK spend of £18 million and a budget of £67 down from 18 co-productions in the previous 12 month period, October 2013-September 2014. These films had a UK spend of £26 million and a total budget of £75 million. Co-productions peaked in October 2010-September 2011, where there were 24 films, with a UK spend of £66 million and a budget of £168 million.

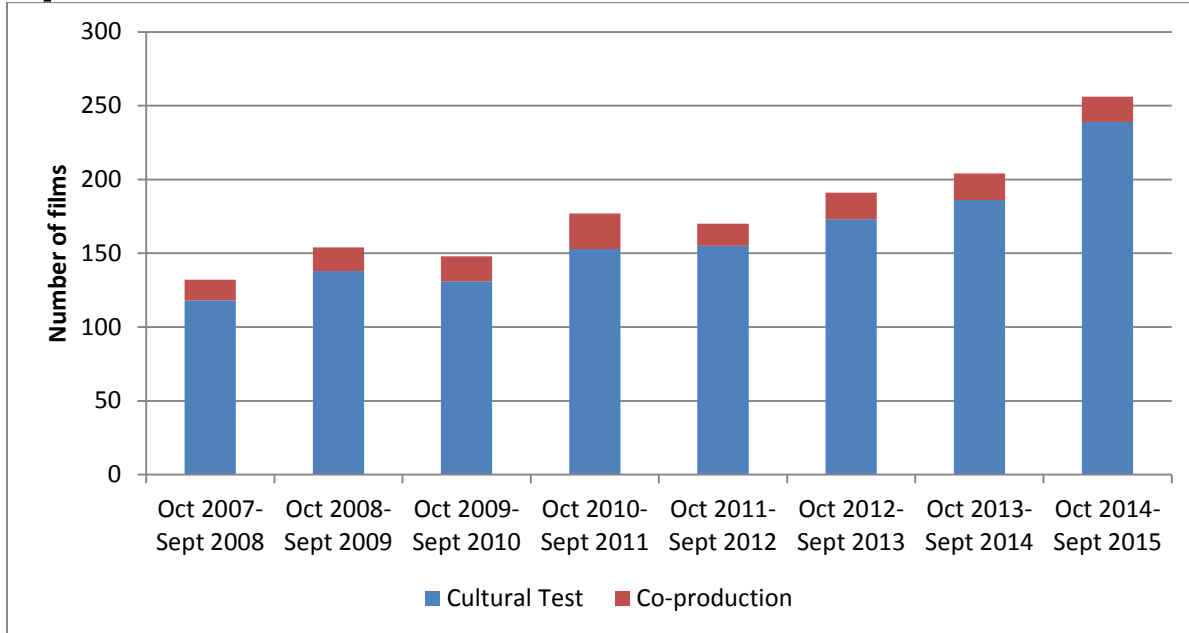
Table 4 Interim certifications for film, rolling year, from October 2007 to September 2015

Type of certification	Oct 2007- Sept 2008	Oct 2008- Sept 2009	Oct 2009- Sept 2010	Oct 2010- Sept 2011	Oct 2011- Sept 2012	Oct 2012- Sept 2013	Oct 2013- Sept 2014	Oct 2014- Sept 2015
Cultural Test								
Number	118	138	131	153	155	173	186	239
UK spend £m	675.7	784.3	1,070.3	926.5	1,509.9	765.5	1,079.4	1,643.9
Total budget £m	838.1	1,093.7	1,407.8	1,200.3	2,022.7	1,079.3	1,595.1	2,542.4
UK spend as % of total budget	80.6	71.7	76.0	77.2	74.6	70.9	67.7	64.7
Co-production								
Number	14	16	17	24	15	18	18	17
UK spend £m	54.3	37.5	30.9	66.5	54.2	53.6	26.1	17.8
Total budget £m	107.7	101.9	76.6	167.8	105.0	117.5	74.5	66.9
UK spend as a % of total budget	50.4	36.8	40.3	39.6	51.7	45.6	35.0	26.7
All Types								
Number	132	154	148	177	170	191	204	256
UK spend £m	730.0	821.8	1,101.2	992.9	1,564.1	819.0	1,105.5	1,661.8
Total budget £m	945.8	1,195.6	1,484.3	1,368.1	2,127.6	1,196.7	1,669.7	2,609.3
UK spend as a % of total budget	77.2	68.7	74.2	72.6	73.5	68.4	66.2	63.7

Source: BFI

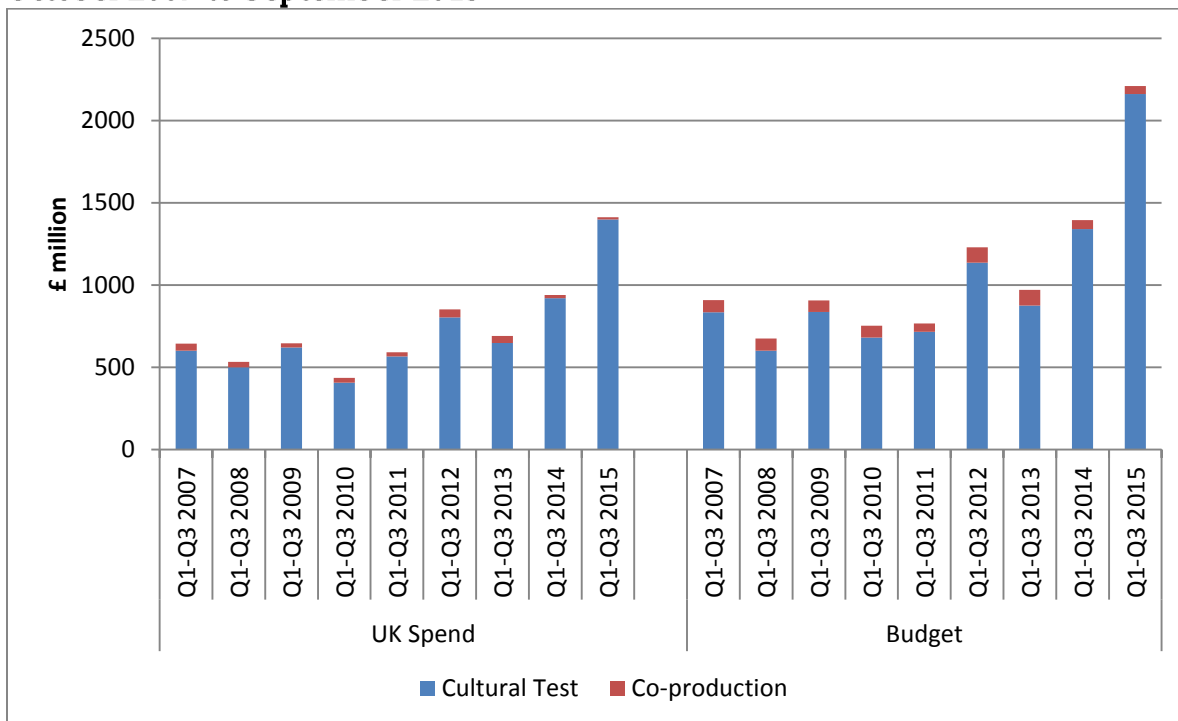
'Total Budget' in the case of cultural test films is the sum of production activity in the UK and production activity outside the UK; in the case of co-production it is the sum of investments made by all participating countries in the film.

Figure 7 Number of interim certifications for film, rolling year, October 2007 to September 2015



Source: BFI

Figure 8 UK spend and total budget of interim certifications for film, rolling year, October 2007 to September 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 budget for interim cultural test certifications has been decreasing from 2007 to 2015, with 2013 having the lowest median budget, at £0.7 million (Table 5). Median budget for Q1-Q3 2015 was just under £1 million, being similar to 2009 and 2012. The highest median budget was £1.8 million in 2007.

Table 5 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
Q1-Q3 2015	1.0

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 6 shows the median budget of interim co-productions since 2003. In Q1-Q3 2015 the median budget was £2.8 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.

Table 6 Median budgets of interim co-production certifications

Year	Median budget £m
2003	4.3
2004	4.2
2005	4.0
2006	5.1
2007	3.7
2008	4.7
2009	3.3
2010	3.7
2011	2.1
2012	6.1
2013	4.6
2014	3.4
Q1-Q3 2015	2.8

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 Q1-Q3 2015, the final co-production certifications for films were under the European Convention of Cinematographic Co-production (ECCC) and the UK/Australia, UK/Canada, UK/New Zealand and UK/South Africa co-production treaties. The interim co-production films qualifying as official co-productions were under the ECCC and the UK/Australia, UK/Canada and UK/New Zealand co-production treaties. For disclosure reasons, the number of co-productions qualifying as British under each treaty is not provided.

3. High-end television certifications

3.1 Certification – numbers of applications and values

In Q1-Q3 2015, a total of 48 HETV programmes received final certification under the cultural test, with a UK spend of £306 million and a total budget of £328 million (Table 7). This is up on Q1-Q3 2014, which saw 28 HETV programmes receive final certification; UK spend was £159 million and total budget was £169 million. UK spend as a percentage of total budget decreased slightly over the time period from 94% to 93%. Co-productions are not shown for disclosure reasons.

Table 7 Cultural test final certification for HETV Q1-Q3 2014 and Q1-Q3 2015

	Q1-Q3 2014	Q1-Q3 2015
Number	28	48
UK spend £m	158.6	306.1
Total budget £m	168.7	328.3
UK spend as a % of total budget	94.0	93.2

Source: BFI

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

Q1-Q3 is the first nine months of the year, i.e. 1 January to 30 September.

A total of 64 HETV programmes received final certification in the rolling year October 2014-September 2015, a substantial increase from the 31 programmes in the previous 12 months, October 2013-September 2014 (Table 8). UK spend and total budget was £438 million and £487 million respectively in October 2014-September 2015, increasing from a UK spend of £169 million and a total budget £179 million in October 2013-September 2014. In the later period, UK spend was 90% of total budget, a decrease on 94% in the earlier period. Co-productions are not shown for disclosure reasons.

Table 8 Cultural test final certifications for HETV, rolling year, October 2013 to September 2015

	Oct 2013-Sept 2014	Oct 2014-Sept 2015
Number	31	64
UK spend £m	168.9	435.7
Total budget £m	179.0	486.5
UK spend as a % of total budget	94.4	89.6

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 52 HETV programmes received interim certification in Q1-Q3 2015, all of which were under the cultural test (Table 9). UK spend and total budget increased from £396 million and £465 million respectively in Q1-Q3 2014 to £436 million and £507 million respectively in Q1-Q3 2015. UK spend as a percentage of total budget increased slightly over the time period from 85% to 86%. No co-productions received interim certification in both Q1-Q3 2014 and Q1-Q3 2015.

Table 9 Cultural test interim certification for HETV, Q1-Q3 2014 and Q1-Q3 2015

Type of certification	Q1-Q3 2014	Q1-Q3 2015
Number	48	52
UK spend £m	396.3	436.1
Total budget £m	465.2	506.9
UK spend as a % of total budget	85.2	86.0

Source: BFI

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

The number of interim cultural test certifications, UK spend and total budget has increased between October 2013-September 2014 and October 2014-September 2015 (Table 10). The number of HETV interim certifications went up from 57 in October 2013-September 2014 to 68 in October 2014-September 2015. UK spend and total budget has increased from £461 million and £535 million respectively to £557 million and £676 million respectively. UK spend as a percentage of total budget has decreased slightly from 86% to 82%. HETV co-productions are not shown for disclosure reasons.

Table 10 Cultural test interim certification for HETV, rolling year, October 2013 to September 2015

	Oct 2013-Sept 2014	Oct 2014-Sept 2015
Number	57	68
UK spend £m	461.3	557.3
Total budget £m	534.9	675.7
UK spend as a % of total budget	86.2	82.5

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 with film and video games². The median total budget of interim cultural test HETV projects for Q1-Q3 2015 was £23,778, an increase from £23,826 for the whole of 2014. For disclosure reasons, median budget per minute for interim co-productions is not provided.

3.3 Co-production treaties

The interim HETV programmes qualifying as official co-productions were under the UK/Australia and UK/Canada co-production treaties. For disclosure reasons, the number of co-productions qualifying as British under each treaty is not provided.

4. Animation programme certifications

4.1 Certification – numbers of applications and values

A total of 29 animation programmes received final certification in Q1-Q3 2015, all under the cultural test (Table 11). UK spend and budget for this period was £36 million and £53 million respectively (UK spend was 68% of total budget). This is a substantial increase on figures for Q1-Q3 2014 where there were seven programmes with a UK spend of £6 million and a total budget of £12 million. No co-productions have received final certification.

Table 11 Cultural test final certifications for animation programmes, Q1-Q3 2014 and Q1-Q3 2015

	Q1-Q3 2014	Q1-Q3 2015
Number	7	29
UK spend £m	6.3	35.6
Total budget £m	12.1	52.5
UK spend as a % of total budget	52.3	67.9

Source: BFI

'Total Budget' is the sum of production activity in the UK and production activity outside the UK. Q1-Q3 is the first nine months of the year, i.e. 1 January to 30 September.

Thirty-six animation programmes received final certification under the cultural test in the rolling year October 2014-September 2015, a substantial increase from the 9 programmes in the previous 12 months, October 2013-September 2014 (Table 12). UK spend and total budget was £40 million and £62 million respectively in October 2014-September 2015, increasing from a UK spend of £7 million and a total budget £13 million in October 2013-September 2014. In the later period, UK spend was 64% of total budget, an increase on 54% in the earlier period. No co-productions have received final certification.

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.

Table 12 Cultural test final certifications for animation programmes, rolling year, October 2013 to September 2015

	Oct 2013-Sept 2014	Oct 2014-Sept 2015
Number	9	36
UK spend £m	6.7	39.9
Total budget £m	12.5	61.9
UK spend as a % of total budget	53.9	64.4

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 programmes production. A total of 15 animation programmes received interim certification in Q1-Q3 2015, with a UK spend of £58 million and a budget of £72 million (Table 13). In Q1-Q3 2014 a greater number of programmes were certified, 22 programmes, but UK spend and budget were lower at £30 million and £37 million respectively. Co-productions that received interim certification are not shown for disclosure reasons.

Table 13 Cultural test interim certification for animation programmes, Q1-Q3 2014 and Q1-Q3 2015

Type of certification	Q1-Q3 2014	Q1-Q3 2015
Number	22	15
UK spend £m	30.3	57.9
Total budget £m	36.7	72.1
UK spend as a % of total budget	82.4	80.4

Source: BFI

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

The number of cultural test animation programmes with interim certification fell from 29 programmes in the rolling year October 2013-September 2014 to 21 in October 2014-September 2015 (Table 14). UK spend and budget also decreased between these periods, from £71 million and £88 million respectively to £56 million and £72 million. UK spend as a percentage of budget decreased from 82% to 78%.

Table 14 Cultural test interim certification for animation programmes, rolling year, October 2013 to September 2015

Type of certification	Oct 2013-Sept	
	2014	Oct 2014-Sept 2015
Number	29	21
UK spend £m	71.3	55.7
Total budget £m	87.5	71.8
UK spend as % of total budget	81.5	77.6

Source: BFI

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

A total of seven co-productions were given interim certification in the period October 2013-September 2015, with a UK spend of £8 million and a total budget of £17 million (UK spend being 47% of total). Data for the periods October 2013-September 2014 and October 2014-September 2015 are not shown for disclosure reasons.

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 budget³. The median budget per minute of interim cultural test certifications for Q1-Q3 2015 was £7,879, a decrease from £8,275 for the whole of 2014.

4.3 Co-production Treaties

The interim animation programmes qualifying as official co-productions in Q1-Q3 2015 were under the UK/Canada co-production treaty. For disclosure reasons, the number of co-productions qualifying under this treaty is not provided.

5. Video Game certification

A total of 77 video games received final certification in Q1-Q3 2015 (Table 15). EEA/UK⁴ spend was £47 million and total budget was £49 million, making EEA/UK spend 95% of total budget. Ninety-five video games received interim certification in the same period, with an EEA/UK spend of £415 million and a budget of £459 million. EEA/UK spend is 91% of budget. As with the other screen sectors, interim certification gives an indication of future video game development.

There are no co-production treaties for video games, as such no data are available.

Table 15 Cultural test certification for video games, Q1-Q3 2015

Certification	Number	EEA/UK spend £m	Total budget £m	EEA/UK spend as a % of total budget
Final	77	46.6	49.0	95.1
Interim	95	415.2	458.7	90.5

Source: BFI

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

In the rolling year October 2014-September 2015, 113 video games received interim certification under the cultural test, with EEA/UK spend at £451 million and total budget at £496 million. EEA/UK spend as a percentage of total budget was 91% (Table 16). Data for video games with final certification by rolling year are the same as Q1-Q3 2015 data.

³ 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.

⁴ 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 Cultural test interim certification for video games, rolling year October 2014 to September 2015

Number	EEA/UK spend £m	Total budget £m	EEA/UK spend as a % of total budget
113	451.4	496.1	91.0

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 £0.6 in Q1-Q3 2015, down from £0.9 for the first half of 2015

Notes:

1. British certification statistics collected and reported by the BFI

The British 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 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 animation television 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 animation shooting or principal photography on or after 1 April 2013 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 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 video game 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/animation shooting 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 game information

Films, programmes and video game 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 (unless the data has already been released or has been published elsewhere).

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
Nick Mason Pearson, Head of Corporate Communications and Public Affairs, BFI
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7. Statistical contact details

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