

British film certification, calendar year 2011

BFI Research and Statistics Unit

31 January 2012

A total of 203 British films received final certification in 2011, the highest number of the last five years, as Table 1 shows. The number of finally certified Cultural Test films was the highest of the past five years, whereas the number of co-productions certified in the period was lower than for 2010 but almost double the low numbers certified in 2008 and 2009.

As with the numbers of certifications, both the total production budget in 2011 (£2,250m) and UK spend (£1,535m) were the highest of the last five years. For both total budget and UK spend the previous highest totals had been in 2010 but the total budget for films certified in 2011 was almost double that for 2010, and the 2011 UK spend was 70% higher than in 2010. Note that these data are for final certifications, so include films produced over the previous one to three years¹. Significant titles receiving final certification in 2011 included *Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2*, *Hugo*, *The King's Speech*, *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides* and *We Need to Talk About Kevin*.

Table 1 Final certifications by calendar year, 2007-2011

Type of certification		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Total
Cultural Test	Number	98	97	144	170	189	698
	UK spend £m	442.4	588.5	422.9	853.8	1478.5	3,786.0
	Total budget £m	561.4	935.4	603.9	1,001.7	2118.9	5,221.2
	UK spend as % of budget	78.8%	62.9%	70.0%	85.2%	69.8%	72.5%
Co-production	Number	56	8	8	19	14	105
	UK spend £m	127.7	28.2	20.7	50.6	56.5	283.6
	Total budget £m	356.7	45.2	48.0	137.4	131.4	718.7
	UK spend as % of total budget	35.8%	62.4%	43.1%	36.8%	43.0%	39.5%
All types	Number	154	105	152	189	203	803
	UK spend £m	570.1	616.7	443.6	904.3	1,534.9	4,069.7
	Total production budget £m	918.1	980.6	651.8	1,139.1	2,250.3	5,939.9
	UK spend as % of total budget	62.1%	62.9%	68.1%	79.4%	68.2%	68.5%

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.

Interim certifications give an indication of the future level of official UK film production. Table 2 shows the numbers, UK spend and production value of British films receiving interim certification between 2007 and 2011. The number of

¹ The latest production statistics are published separately in 2011 *Full Year Production Report*

interim-certified Cultural Test films in 2011 increased by nine compared with 2010, but the number of interim-certified official co-productions decreased slightly from 23 in 2010 to 19 in 2011.

The anticipated UK spend as a percentage of the total budget increased by eight percentage points, to 79.6%, for interim-certified Cultural Test films in 2011, compared with 2010, and for co-productions the UK spend as a percentage of the total budget increased by six percentage points to 46.3% (the highest since 2007).

Table 2 Interim certifications by calendar year, 2007-2011

Type of certification		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Total
Cultural Test	Number	100	120	146	142	151	659
	UK spend £m	781.8	664.4	1,295.5	688.3	1,284.7	4,714.6
	Total budget £m	1,077.3	857.5	1,578.5	959.3	1,614.8	6,087.3
	UK spend as % of budget	72.6%	77.5%	82.1%	71.7%	79.6%	77.4%
Co-production	Number	20	15	15	23	19	92
	UK spend £m	56.0	47.8	27.2	76.1	31.6	238.6
	Total budget £m	106.7	106.6	80.8	187.8	68.1	549.9
	UK spend as % of total budget	52.5%	44.9%	33.6%	40.5%	46.3%	43.4%
All types	Number	120	135	161	165	170	751
	UK spend £m	837.8	712.2	1,322.6	764.3	1,316.2	4,953.2
	Total production budget £m	1,183.9	964.1	1,659.2	1,147.1	1,682.9	6,637.3
	UK spend as % of total budget	70.8%	73.9%	79.7%	66.6%	78.2%	74.6%

Source: BFI.

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

Budgets

The median budget of interim Cultural Test certifications has been decreasing over the last five years (Table 3), and has halved from £1.8 million in 2007 to £0.9 million in 2011.

Table 3 Median budgets of interim Cultural Test certifications

Year	Median budget £m
2007	1.8
2008	1.5
2009	1.1
2010	1.1
2011	0.9

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. In 2011, budgets for interim Cultural Test films ranged from under £50,000 to substantially above £100 million.

For co-productions receiving interim certification, there had been a trend of slightly decreasing median budgets from 2003 to 2010 (with exceptions to the trend in 2006 and 2008). However, as table 4 shows, the fall in median budgets between 2010 and 2011 was more marked, with a decrease of £1.4 million, from 2010's median of £3.7 million to 2011's median of £1.3 million.

Table 4 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	3.5
2010	3.7
2011	2.3

Source: BFI.

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

Co-production agreements

In 2011, eight of the 14 final co-production certifications were under the European Convention on Cinematic Co-production, three were under the UK-Canada agreement and one each were under the UK-Australia, the UK-New Zealand and the UK-South Africa agreements.

Table 5 shows the numbers of final co-production certifications by treaty between 2007 and 2011.

Table 5 Final co-production certifications by treaty, 2007-2011

Treaty	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
European Convention	46	5	5	14	8
UK-Australia Treaty	1	1	1	2	1
UK-Canada Treaty	5		1	2	3
UK-France	4	1			
UK-New Zealand Treaty		1		1	1
UK-South Africa Treaty			1		1
Total	56	8	8	19	14

Source: BFI.

Of the 19 interim co-production certifications, 15 were under the European Convention, three were under the UK-Canada agreement and one was under the UK-South Africa agreement.

Table 6 shows the numbers of interim co-production certifications by treaty between 2007 and 2011.

Table 6 Interim co-production certifications by treaty, 2007-2011

Treaty	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
European Convention	15	10	10	14	15
UK-Australia Treaty		3	1	1	
UK-Canada Treaty	4	1	3	2	3
UK-New Zealand Treaty	1		1	2	
UK-South Africa Treaty		1		4	1
Total	20	15	15	23	19

Source: BFI.

Technical notes:

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

The British film certification statistics in this report are based on data collected from the BFI's Certification Unit and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). The data reported are all British films certified in the reference period, not a sample.

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

Figures shown in the tables are for British films certified during the reference periods shown. Certification may occur some time after both the production and theatrical release of the film.

Figures for Cultural Test film certification include certificates issued under the old production costs test, transitional Cultural Test (32 points) and the Cultural Test (31 points).

Interim certification (applicable to Cultural Test films from January 2007) is not a pre-requisite for receiving final certification under the Cultural Test. Some films receive their final certification without having received an interim certificate.

2. Definitions

Cultural Test films are British films certified under the Cultural Test of Schedule 1 to the Films Act 1985. To qualify under this definition, films commencing principal photography on or after 1 January 2007 must pass a UK Cultural Test awarding points for UK 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 approval 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.

Official UK co-productions are British films certified under one of the UK's official co-production agreements or the European Convention on Cinematographic Co-production. 'Interim approval' is granted prior to the start of principal photography to films that meet the criteria and 'final certification' once the film has been completed and final documents submitted. Films made as official co-productions are not required to pass the Cultural Test for British film.

For full details of the Cultural Test and other information on British film certification see <http://www.bfi.org.uk/about/qualifying>.

UK spend is the value of production activities in the UK for Cultural Test films and UK expenditure for co-productions. The UK expenditure for co-productions may

include some expenditure on UK goods and services which takes place outside the UK.

Total production value is the sum of total budget for Cultural Test films and total investment for UK co-productions.

Total investment (in relation to co-productions) is the sum of each participating country's investment in the co-production and approximates the production budget.

3. Revisions

As the status and certification dates of individual films 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 quarters, so the latest release should be referred to as the most accurate summation available of the certification numbers.

Pre-release Access

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