

Consultation title: Single Equality Scheme 2014

To Ofcom contact: ses@ofcom.org.uk

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Representing (self or organisation/s): British Film Institute

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Name Carol Comley
Signed (if hard copy)

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BFI response

to

7 Ofcom's Consultation
Single Equality Scheme 2014

October 2014

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The BFI welcomes the opportunity to respond to Ofcom's Single Equalities Scheme. Like Ofcom, we are strongly committed to equality and diversity (e.g. we are Stonewall Champions) and we very much welcome the plans set out in the Scheme.

However, we are puzzled by the inclusion of footprint/carbon issues within an equalities scheme since they relate to rather different aims and objectives. We believe that the nature and importance of such matters is that they should form part of a specific and separate strategy.

2. ABOUT THE BFI

In 2011 the BFI became the lead organisation for film in the UK. It is now a Government arm's-length body and distributor of Lottery funds for film.

Our mission is to ensure that film is central to our cultural life, in particular by supporting and nurturing the next generation of filmmakers and audiences. The BFI serves a public role which covers the cultural, creative and economic aspects of film in the UK.

- It delivers this role: As the UK-wide organisation for film, a charity core funded by Government
- By providing Lottery and Government funds for film across the UK
- By working with partners to advance the position of film in the UK

In October 2012, the BFI published 'Film Forever, Supporting UK Film 2012-2017', which set out its strategy for the next five years, following an extensive industry consultation.¹ It described the activities underpinning the BFI's three strategic priorities: Expanding education and learning opportunities and boosting audience choice across the UK Supporting the future success of British film Unlocking film heritage for everyone in the UK to enjoy.

To that end, the BFI helps ensure that public policy supports film and, in particular, British film.

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter. The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Greg Dyke.

3. CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1. What are your views on Ofcom's Single Equality Scheme?

The BFI is a public body which recognises its statutory duties under the Equalities Act 2010 but which like, Ofcom, is determined to do more than just meet its legal duties.

That is why, for example, in September this year we introduced the Three Ticks scheme to ensure film productions supported with Lottery funding through the BFI Film Fund reflect and represent the diversity of the UK. We are also Two Ticks accredited (disability) and are Stonewall Champions.

¹ <http://www.bfi.org.uk/about-bfi/policy-strategy/film-forever>

We welcome the plan set out in this Scheme and believe it has the potential to make a significant contribution to equality and diversity.

Q2. To what extent do you believe that our approach will promote equality and diversity within Ofcom and in the sectors we regulate?

The BFI believes that, in the round, Ofcom's approach should have a positive effect on equality and diversity within both the organisation and the sectors it regulates.

However, we are puzzled by the decision to include footprint and sustainability in particular within this Scheme. Like Ofcom, the BFI is committed to sustainability both for itself and for its stakeholders and we have an agreed strategy for this. However, the goal of reducing carbon seems to us fundamentally different from that of a Single Equality Scheme. Although we support the goals set out in respect of this part of the Scheme we would argue that footprint/carbon issues should be dealt with in a separate strategy.

Q3. Are there any additional objectives that you feel Ofcom should include in our Single Equality Scheme?

The BFI has not identified any additional objectives.