

ULSTER-SCOTS CONSULTANT ENGAGEMENT

BACKGROUND

Funding awarded by Northern Ireland Screen's Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund (USBF) is dependent on the recruitment of an Ulster-Scots Consultant. This person must be approved by the USBF Executive and engaged during **pre-production, production** and **post-production**. It is also highly recommended that production companies engage the services of an Ulster-Scots Consultant throughout the **development** process.

PAYMENT

The production budget must include a payment for the Ulster-Scots Consultant, recognising their engagement at each of the production stages outlined below. Payment terms must be negotiated and agreed between the production company and Ulster-Scots Consultant.

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In order to ensure the Ulster-Scots Consultant's knowledge and experience is fully optimised, the USBF recommends the following points:

- **DEVELOPMENT STAGE**
When a production company is researching potential Ulster-Scots stories, people and content, they should connect with an Ulster-Scots Consultant or an expert from within the Ulster-Scots community. The USBF Executive can help guide production companies in this process.
- **PROPOSAL STAGE**
When a treatment is drafted by a production company ahead of submission to the broadcaster and USBF Executive, the involvement of an approved and subject-appropriate Ulster-Scots Consultant must be confirmed. Consultants must have been contacted in advance and agreed to be involved in projects prior to submissions being made to the committee.
- **ON OFFER OF AWARD**
Once a production has been awarded funding by the Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund Committee, the production company must confirm the name of the Ulster-Scots Consultant. If he/she is different from the person named on the treatment, the production company must explain the change in Ulster-Scots Consultant to both the broadcaster and USBF Executive.

- **PRE-PRODUCTION**

During pre-production the production company and Ulster-Scots Consultant should continue to work closely together on the over-arching Ulster-Scots narrative. The producer should also seek the Ulster-Scots Consultant's advice in incorporating authentic and appropriate Ulster-Scots words and/or phrases as and when they would naturally occur throughout the programme. The Ulster-Scots Consultant should also be asked to confirm historical accuracy, suggest appropriate contributor(s) and ensure authenticity when it comes to locations, interviews and presenter pieces to camera.

- **PRODUCTION**

The Ulster-Scots Consultant should have the opportunity to be on location, particularly during recording of interviews and pieces to camera where they can identify key responses that can enforce or elevate the programme's Ulster-Scots content.

- **POST-PRODUCTION**

Ulster-Scots Consultants are aware little can be done at this stage to help consolidate the Ulster-Scots narrative. However, the production company should show the Ulster-Scots Consultant a rough cut and ask them to provide feedback on the content of the Ulster-Scots element which, if appropriate and feasible, should be acted on during this stage of production. The Ulster-Scots Consultant should also be shown and approve the spelling and grammar of on-screen Ulster-Scots text before delivery of the production.

FEEDBACK

Consultants are an important aspect of the development of high-quality Ulster-Scots content. The USBF committee places high value on the contribution of consultants and will seek feedback from them about their involvement and experience working on projects in which they have been named. This feedback may be used to inform future funding decisions.

GENERAL

Ulster-Scots Consultants are there to help the production company deliver a strong Ulster-Scots narrative throughout the production. However, they also know they must work within the production company's creative vision and budgetary constraints. **The Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund Executive should be contacted by the production company or Ulster-Scots Consultant if either party feels the arrangement is proving prohibitive.** A copy of this guidance should be provided to consultants by production companies for information.

If you wish to discuss further, please contact:

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