



NORTHERN IRELAND SCREEN
Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund

ULSTER-SCOTS BROADCAST FUND (USBF)

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE MEMBER RECRUITMENT

MAY 2025

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

ULSTER-SCOTS BROADCAST FUND – AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The aim of the Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund (USBF) is to ensure that the heritage, culture and language of Ulster-Scots are expressed through moving image for a Northern Ireland audience. The USBF is also open to supporting radio and interactive content and funds a trainee scheme designed to attract production trainees who are passionate and knowledgeable about Ulster-Scots.

As of 22nd May 2025, the USBF has supported 347 hours of television, digital and radio programmes. A combination of compelling content, programme diversity and quality of productions has attracted both critical acclaim and impressive audience figures. The USBF also aims to foster the Ulster-Scots independent production sector in Northern Ireland and train future sector employees through its USBF Trainee Scheme.

Decisions to allocate resources from the USBF are taken in line with the assessment criteria outlined in the **USBF Guidelines** and **USBF Priorities** (click each to view). Key amongst these criteria is the level to which the project makes a contribution to the status and promotion of Ulster-Scots heritage, culture and language, and clear evidence that each broadcast production and digital project will reach a substantial audience in Northern Ireland.

ULSTER-SCOTS BROADCAST FUND – INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

The Investment Committee has delegated authority within Northern Ireland Screen to make funding decisions regarding the USBF. This is an exciting time to join our Committee as we continue to look to further our broadcasting commitments by growing TV, Radio and Digital opportunities within the Ulster-Scots sector.

The Committee shall consist of one member of the Northern Ireland Screen Board, who shall be the Chair, appointed by the Board. The other members include a nominated member from BBC NI who represents broadcasting interests generally, a nominated member from the Ulster-Scots Agency and three independent representatives on behalf of the Ulster-Scots audience in Northern Ireland.

Members shall hold office for an initial period of three years and may be eligible for reappointment. The Committee Chair ceasing to be a member of the Board will immediately cease to be a Chair of the Committee and must be replaced by the decision of the Board.

RECRUITMENT – COMMITTEE MEMBER

The role of the Committee Member is to assess applications from local independent production companies for new TV, Radio and Digital programmes that best reflect the Ulster-Scots community, past and present. Assessments and associated documents and online links are sent to all Committee Members in advance of a Committee Meeting during which each application is discussed and funding awards decided.

RECRUITMENT – PERSON SPECIFICATION

Candidates will be expected to demonstrate in their application form and, if shortlisted, at interview, the extent to which they are able to satisfy the following **essential criteria**:

1. Demonstration of an interest in and/or links to Ulster-Scots heritage, culture and language
2. Demonstration of knowledge of Ulster-Scots TV, radio and digital output, e.g. **BBC NI's Out of the Silence**, **Tartan Tales** and **Paula McIntyre's Hamely Kitchen**, UTV's **Mahon's Way**, **Charlie Gillen Poetry Dramatisations** digital series and **NVTV USBF-funded content** - (click [links](#) to view).

RECRUITMENT – SELECTION PROCESS

Northern Ireland Screen's aim is to appoint the best person to each vacant post. Recruitment and selection processes will be conducted to ensure equality of opportunity and selection will only be made on the basis of merit.

To assist us in our administration, we ask that all prospective candidates submit a short application via [clicking the link](#).

**Applications must be received by 1pm on Friday 4th July 2025
late applications will not be received.**

- Candidates will be shortlisted in accordance with the above list of criteria.
- Shortlisted candidates will be called to a short informal interview, reflecting that this is unpaid voluntary position, before mid-August 2025.
- The next meeting of the newly constituted USBF Investment Committee is due to take place in September 2025

COMMITTEE - TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

- USBF Investment Committee members will be appointed for a term of three years and may be eligible for re-appointment.
- The USBF Investment Committee will meet approximately 3 times a year.
- Committee members must at all times abide by the Seven Principles of Public Life as laid down by the Commissioner for Public Appointments for Northern Ireland (see Appendix A).

COMMITTEE: REMUNERATION

A travel and subsistence allowance will be payable to all committee members, if appropriate.



OVERVIEW OF NORTHERN IRELAND SCREEN

Northern Ireland Screen is the screen agency for Northern Ireland. We are committed to maximising the economic, cultural and educational value of the screen industries for the benefit of Northern Ireland. Our mission is to accelerate the development of a dynamic and sustainable screen industry and culture in Northern Ireland.

Our 3 economic, cultural and educational objectives are for:

1. Northern Ireland to have the strongest screen industry outside of London in the UK and Ireland.
2. Ensure the industry supports vibrant and diverse cultural voices that will be recognised and celebrated equally at home and abroad.
3. Mainstream across Northern Ireland the most successful screen and digital technologies education provision in Europe.

Northern Ireland Screen is a company limited by guarantee, currently employing 46 people and we are governed by a Board of thirteen directors. The Chairman is Sir David Sterling and Sir Kenneth Branagh is the Honorary President.

Northern Ireland Screen is funded by the Department for the Economy, Department for Communities and for the Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund the Department of Media, Culture and Sport.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you would like to apply or have an informal chat about the commitments of the role, please contact Heidi McAlpin, Northern Ireland Screen's USBF Executive, at heidi@northernirelandscreen.co.uk or **028 9023 2444**.

Appendix A

THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC LIFE

SELFLESSNESS

Holders of public office should take decisions solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends.

INTEGRITY

Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might influence them in performance of their official duties.

OBJECTIVITY

In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

OPENNESS

Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all decisions and actions they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

HONESTY

Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

LEADERSHIP

Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and examples.