

SCREEN  
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# POLICY ON IRISH FILM BOARD FUNDING

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## Policy on Irish Film Board Funding

### CORE POLICY

Capital funding for Bord Scannán na hÉireann/Irish Film Board urgently needs to be increased. If not, Irish producers will not be able to compete internationally.

The national screen agency in all territories plays an integral role in the success of the local audio-visual economy. It provides funding and support for indigenous productions as well as some incoming productions.

Since 2008 the capital funding for the Irish Film Board has been reduced year on year. The percentage decrease since 2008 to 2014, is over 40%. The IFB Oireachtas grant for 2015 is €11.2M. By comparison Northern Ireland Screen's **annual** investment in production is budgeted at €16.3M (STG£11.7M). Northern Ireland is a market significantly smaller than the Republic of Ireland.

The reduction in Irish Film Board funding has had a significant negative effect on the film and television production sector, particularly indigenous film makers who provide much needed work and opportunities for Irish creative talent.

It is crucial that Irish Film Board funding is reinstated so that Irish producers can compete on a level playing field with their international counter-parts.

In 2014 the Irish Film Board invested just under €10 million in production activity. This permitted Irish producers to leverage this funding thereby generating production expenditure of over €42 million in relation to IFB funded projects in that year.

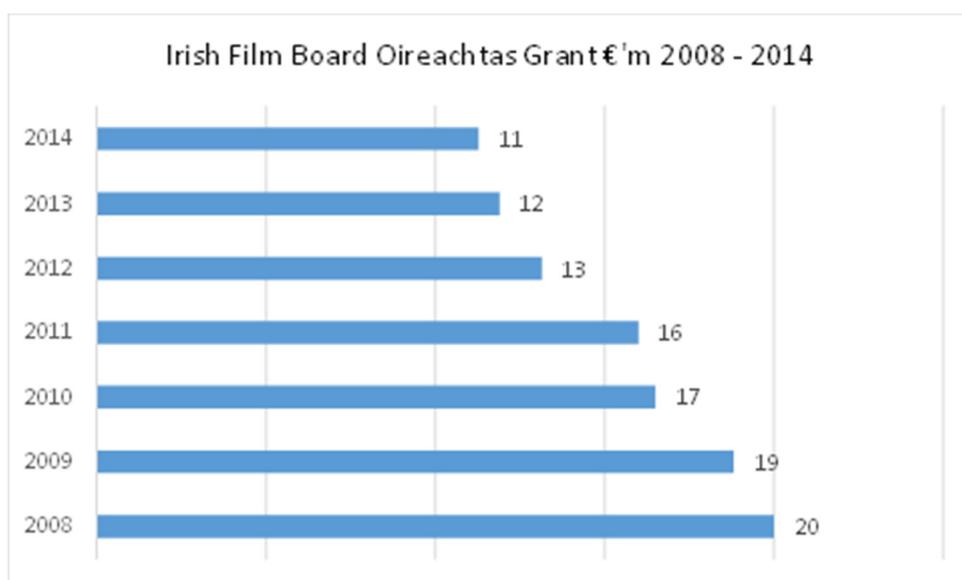
SPI seeks the reinstatement of the Irish Film Board Oireachtas grant to €20 million p/a.

This increase would permit Irish producers to leverage this funding and increase production expenditure to €84 million, thereby increasing the number of jobs in the film and television production sector.

# Policy on Irish Film Board Funding Principles

## PRINCIPLES ON WHICH THIS POLICY IS BASED

Since 2008 the capital funding for the Irish Film Board has been reduced year on year. The percentage decrease since 2008 to 2014, is over 40%. The reduction has had a significant negative effect on the film and television production sector. If Ireland is to compete on the world stage for film and television productions, its national screen agency must be adequately funded.



In 2014 the Irish Film Board invested just under €10 million in production activity. This permitted Irish producers to leverage this funding thereby generating production expenditure of over €42 million in relation to IFB funded projects in that year.

The Irish Film Board Oireachtas grant for 2015 is €11.2 million. By way of comparison, for the years 2014-2018 Northern Ireland Screen's **annual** investment in production is budget at €16.3 million (£11.75 million). This in a market significantly smaller than the ROI.

In April 2014 Northern Ireland Screen announced a STG. £43 million, four-year investment plan entitled *'Opening Doors: A Strategy to Transform the Screen Industries in Northern Ireland'* anticipated to generate STG. £250M return on investment. This is a significant increase in the level of funding under their previous scheme where NI Screen invested STG. £27.3 million over the four years 2010-2014 generating an estimated STG. £121 million return on investment.

If funding for Ireland's national screen agency the Irish Film Board is not increased, it will jeopardize productions and put Irish producers at a significant disadvantage compared to their international counterparts. Film and television productions made in or about Ireland are important. They are a valuable cultural export with the ability to reach substantial global audiences.

In 2010, over 6.1 million (CSO) visitors came to the Republic of Ireland generating revenue inflows of €3,556 million (CSO) and resulting in 178,000 jobs (Fáilte Ireland).

In a Fáilte Ireland exit survey done in the same year, of tourists leaving the country, 20% of tourists indicated that films influenced their choice of Ireland as a destination.

While respondents can list multiple influences, the response to film is significant. Over the last 5 years the influence of film has increased from being the 6<sup>th</sup>, to the 4<sup>th</sup> most important factor influencing the tourist's decision to visit Ireland. It is imperative that Ireland continues to be able to compete in order to maintain and grow employment levels in film and television production while also continuing to boost tourism numbers.

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REPRESENTING INDEPENDENT FILM, TELEVISION,  
ANIMATION AND DIGITAL PRODUCTION COMPANIES

## Policy on Irish Film Board Funding

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