

# Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Brath Naidheachd  
*Press Release*



**\*Please scroll down for English Version\***

## COMMITMENT TO CULTURE AND INTERNATIONAL WORK REMAINS – RUSSELL

17 September 2009

Spending on key cultural and international policies has been maintained in today's Draft Scottish Budget, despite a real terms cut in the Scottish Government's Budget.

Minister for Culture, External Affairs and the Constitution Michael Russell said:

"The cuts imposed by the UK Government will have a direct impact on how we support arts and culture and our wider international efforts.

"My priority has been clear – we must be smarter about how we deliver strong policy outcomes and protect those areas vital to Scotland's cultural and international presence.

"I have reluctantly reduced the scope to introduce new spending on support for innovative cultural initiatives and instead concentrated funds in our priority areas such as Creative Scotland, Gaelic and international relations.

"Crucially, I have been able to sustain the level of funding for establishing Creative Scotland as a Statutory Non Departmental Public Body (NDPB) to support, develop and promote the widest range of art, culture and creativity. It will embrace all the creative industries, to ensure our creative entrepreneurs can thrive while supporting economic recovery. I have confirmed £2.5 million for the Creative Scotland Innovation Fund bringing the total to £5 million over the period from 2009-11.

"Another key focus is on initiatives that prioritise the creation of a new generation of Gaelic speakers and promote the use of Gaelic through education, the arts and in Scottish public life generally.

"We can also continue vital work to protect Scotland's historic environment as well as preserving and ensuring access to Scotland's national archives and collections, particularly through major capital projects.

"This budget is outward looking, supporting sustainable economic growth by developing Scotland's place in Europe and the wider world. It maximises our influence within the European Union, and builds on mutually beneficial links with other countries including the US and China. Crucially it also maintains our strong commitment to International Development and Aid, and cements our relationships with development countries.

"In addition, we continue to position Scotland as a world-leading events destination and a great place to live, work, learn, visit and do business.

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“In the teeth of these heavy cuts, I am determined nevertheless to achieve maximum impact for our cultural sector and our relations internationally.”