

## BOARD MINUTES

Date and Time	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2020, 6pm – 7.30pm
Location	Eden Court Theatre, Inverness
Purpose	Emergency meeting to discuss the immediate implications of the emerging Coronavirus outbreak on the work of Fèis Rois
Present	Fiona Dalgetty (Chief Executive), Malina MacDonald-Dawson (Chair), Norman MacArthur, Duncan Chisholm, Shona Henderson, Jennifer Marshall

## SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

Action Ref. Number	Action	Responsibility	Time line
Item 1	Support staff to work from home	Fiona Dalgetty	ASAP
Item 2	Communicate the cancellation of the Junior Fèis to all involved	Fiona Dalgetty	ASAP
Item 3	Communicate the cancellation of the Adult Fèis to all involved	Fiona Dalgetty	ASAP
Item 4	Communicate the cancellation of our partnership project in Australia to all involved	Fiona Dalgetty	ASAP
Item 5	Postpone the recording work due to take place at Watercolour Studios next month	Fiona Dalgetty	ASAP
Item 6	Liaise with Historic Environment Scotland to agree a new timescale for the current collaborative project	Fiona Dalgetty	ASAP
Item 7	Work with the Education Manager and the Community Engagement Officer to take decisions around the continued delivery of their portfolios of work	Fiona Dalgetty	ASAP
Item 8	Update the Board on the financial impact on Fèis Rois and those we work with.	Fiona Dalgetty	ASAP

Fiona Dalgetty highlighted to the Board that the current advice (at 12<sup>th</sup> March) from both the UK Government and the Scottish Government was that:

- Schools should not close;
- International trips for schools were not advised;
- People should stay at home for 7 days if they had a new persistent cough or a high temperature.

Fiona pointed out that, although the Government is not currently suggesting schools should close or that large events be cancelled, our residential Fèisean are unique in that they bring people from different families together in close proximity.

Fiona explained that she had met with Iain Munro, Chief Executive of Creative Scotland, earlier in the day and that he had outlined that Creative Scotland's position would be that RFOs will be able to use their funding to offset unforeseen costs where they have to cancel events.

The Board and Fiona had a detailed discussion about the following:

- The health and well being of staff and what would be required for a move to working from home;
- The implications of cancelling both the Junior Fèis and the Adult Fèis courses;
- Pulling out of our project in Australia due to take place in May;
- Whether or not we continue to ask artists to come together to record our new commission in April;
- The potential impact on our year-round programme of work in the community and in schools.
- The work we are delivering in partnership with Historic Environment Scotland

It was agreed at this point to only look as far ahead as our programming to the end of June.

The Board agreed that everyone who could work from home should do so.

The Board also agreed that we should take immediate action to:

1. Cancel the Junior Fèis (it will hopefully then take place as usual next year)
2. Cancel the Adult Fèis (it will hopefully then take place as usual next year)
3. Cancel our planned work in Australia (this can be rescheduled for 2021 with relative ease)
4. Postpone our planned work with Historic Environment Scotland
5. Postpone the recording of our new commission by Iain Fraser
6. Follow Government guidance on schools and take action as appropriate

A discussion was had on the impact of all of this on our freelance artists, creative practitioners and project administrators, as well as on the community in Ullapool where we take 1,855 bed nights each year just for our participants and freelance teams at the three main fèisean. It was agreed that Fiona would report back to the board on the financial impact and that we would take all measures possible to support our community as well as to protect Fèis Rois.

It was agreed that a decision would be taken on the following projects later as we get further advice from Government:

- TJ's trip to a conference in New York (June)
- The Lullaby Project (on-going)
- The Ceilidh Trail and new training band (July/August)
- The Scotland Pavilion at Festival Interceltique de Lorient (August)