

## BOARD MINUTES

Date and Time	Tuesday 6 June 2024, 7pm
Location	Robertson House, Greenhill Street, Dingwall, IV15 9JQ
Purpose	Quarterly Meeting
Present	Fiona Dalgetty (Chief Executive), Jennifer Marshall (Chair), Alex Urquhart-Taylor, Tom Boyd, Shona Henderson, Megan Dale, David Green, Don Esson (zoom), Carrie Forbes, Grace Stewart-Skinner, Lorraine Aburrow (Minutes)
Apologies	Chloë Bryce, Duncan Chisholm, Calum MacAulay

### Actions:

- Item 1 Fiona will approach HIE to see if there is a possibility of a consultant doing a feasibility study on FR renting the whole of Robertson House.
- Item 2 Fiona will contact Catriona at Arts & Business Scotland about a development day for the FR Board.
- Item 3 Alex Urquhart-Taylor will sort google maps as the address for FR is incorrect.
- Item 4 We will update our website to show the partnerships that FR work with.

### Agenda Item

#### 2024.02.01 Preliminaries

Jennifer Marshall welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Carrie Forbes approved the minutes of the previous meeting as being a correct and accurate record and these were seconded by Megan Dale.

#### Declarations of Interest

Jennifer Marshall is now an employee of HIE, therefore if we are applying for any funding, she will not chair / attend that part of the meeting. Carrie Forbes is a freelance musician and is currently being paid by Fèis Rois as such. David Green's children benefit from freelance work and music tuition from Fèis Rois.

#### 2024.02.02 Reports and Updates

The meeting began with a tour around Robertson House. Following the departure of Sight Action, the landlord has offered us the use of the whole building. After the tour a long discussion took place on the possibilities of FR having the use of the whole building. It was agreed that while this would be an amazing opportunity, there is a big financial risk. The landlord knows that we are not in a position to agree to anything until we hear from Creative Scotland about the multiyear funding so it was agreed that Fiona would approach HIE about the possibility of a feasibility study,

Fiona talked through the management accounts for quarter 4 and our financial position. It was noted that the monies for Dumfries and Galloway YMI didn't come into the bank in Q4 but Fiona said that we have already received £60k of this in Q1, 2024-2025.

Fiona said that the current funding climate is still difficult with lots more applications to funding bodies than there is money available. Jennifer said that it was very positive to see the increases in our earned income. It was also noted that Aberdeenshire Council have increased their budget to FR for YMI work carried out in the area which is hugely positive. Rachael and Eilidh are heading to Fraserburgh on 24 June as part of the whistling away project for Aberdeenshire YMI.

There was a discussion about legacy funding and it was agreed that this would be something useful that the Board could look at, at a Board Development Day. Fiona will contact Arts & Business to see if they will facilitate this.

Fiona updated the Board on all activities. Following her successful visit to Vietnam last October, Fiona is hosting a group of Vietnamese musicians and Scottish musicians for 10 days. They will collaborate on a piece of new music and then perform at 3 different venues.

The Ceilidh Trail tour will run from 15 July to 3 August with a special additional concert at the Edinburgh International Festival on 10 August. Fiona invited the Board to attend the finale concert in Eden Court and the Edinburgh International Festival event.

A group of Fèis Rois musicians will perform at the Olympic Village in Paris on 10 August; this is a wonderful opportunity for our emerging musicians.

Our weekly and monthly classes are continuing to grow.

The Chair thanked the Chief Executive and all staff for preparing detailed reports on all activity for the board.

There was a discussion about the risk register and it was noted that car travel was a risk. It was also noted that key personnel leaving was also a risk so there should be some succession planning.

### **2024.02.03 Press & Publicity Update**

We continue to have a good presence in the local press and across socials. Hector Mackenzie from the Ross-shire Journal shares all our press releases in print and socials. Nicola McAlley from STV is going to Resolis Hall on Thursday 13 June to do a piece on our collaboration of Scottish and Vietnamese musicians. The Board noted their thanks to Katie Mackenzie who provides freelance marketing and PR support.

### **2024.02.04 AOB**

The next board meeting is 5 September 2024.