

## British film certification, first half year (H1) 2009

UK Film Council Research and Statistics Unit

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A total of 75 British films received final certification in the first half (H1) of 2009, up from 39 in H1 2008 but lower than the 84 in H1 2007, as Table 1 shows. The majority (70 out of 75) of the finally certified films in H1 2009 were Schedule 1 films.

Despite the number of final certifications in H1 2009 being close to that of H1 2007 and almost double the number of H1 2008, the total production value of the 75 finally certified films fell to £204.1 million (£397.2 million in H1 2007 and £312.4 million in H1 2008) and UK spend was £139.7 million (£190.8 million in H1 2007 and £185.1 million in H1 2008).

**Table 1: British film (all types) final certification, H1s 2007 to 2009**

Type of certification		H1 2007	H1 2008	H1 2009
Schedule 1	Number	42	37	70
	UK spend £m	92.3	176.4	122.3
	Total budget £m	113.2	299.7	165.8
Co-production	Number	42	2	5
	UK spend £m	98.5	8.8	17.3
	Total investment £m	284.0	12.7	38.3
All types	Number	84	39	75
	UK spend £m	190.8	185.1	139.7
	Total production value £m	397.2	312.4	204.1

Source: UK Film Council

'Total production value' is the sum of budget (Schedule 1 films) and total investment (co-productions).

The fall in total production value and UK spend was due to the combined effect of the continuing low number of official co-productions and the absence of high-budget Schedule 1 certifications in H1 2009. In H1 2008, three of the finally certified Schedule 1 films had production budgets of £50 million or above, compared with none in H1 2009.

(In interpreting these numbers it should be remembered that final certification takes place at varying intervals after films are completed, so final certifications are not an indicator of current production activity. For current production levels see *UK film production H1 2009* released on 16 July 2009.)

Interim certifications give an indication of the future level of official UK film production. Tables 2 and 3 show the numbers, UK spend and production value of British films receiving interim certification in the first halves of 2007 to 2009. The number of interim-certified Schedule 1 films rose to 65 (59 in H1 2008) while the number of interim-certified official co-productions stayed at 10, the same as H1 2008.

The anticipated UK spend of interim-certified Schedule 1 films rose to £270.4 million in H1 2009 from £193.4 million in H1 2008, while the median film budget continued to fall to £0.8 million compared to £3.2 million in H1 2007 and £2.0 million in H1 2008 (Table 2).

**Table 2: Schedule 1 interim certifications, UK spend and total budget, H1s 2007 to 2009**

	Number	UK spend (£m)	Total budget (£m)	Median budget (£m)
H1 2007	54	505.2	724.5	3.2
H1 2008	59	193.4	284.3	2.0
H1 2009	65	270.4	298.2	0.8

Source: UK Film Council

The anticipated UK expenditure of interim-certified official co-productions fell to £22.0 million in H1 2009 (£32.3 million in H1 2008) despite the same number of certifications and similar level of total investment to H1 2008. The median budget also fell slightly to £4.7 million from £5.1 million in H1 2008 (Table 3) but was higher than H1 2007's £3.5 million.

**Table 3: Official UK co-production interim certifications, UK expenditure and total investment, H1s 2007 to 2009**

	Number	UK expenditure (£m)	Total investment (£m)	Median investment (£m)
H1 2007	12	19.1	50.6	3.5
H1 2008	10	32.3	67.7	5.1
H1 2009	10	22.0	64.2	4.7

Source: UK Film Council

Eight of the 10 interim co-production certificates in H1 2009 were issued under either the European Convention on Cinematic Co-production (EC) or one of the UK official co-production agreements (7 under the EC and one under the UK/Canada bilateral treaty). The other two were issued under the EC and UK/Canada treaty, and the EC and UK/South Africa treaty respectively.

#### Technical notes:

##### 1. British film certification statistics collected and reported by UK Film Council

The British film certification statistics in this report are based on data collected from the UK Film Council Certification Unit and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). The data reported are all British films certified in the reference period, not a sample.

The UKFC Certification Unit assesses British film certification applications on behalf of the DCMS and makes recommendations to the Secretary of State who issues certificates.

Figures shown in the tables are for British films certified during the reference periods shown. Certification may occur some time after both the production and theatrical release of the film.

Figures for Schedule 1 film certification include certificates issued under the old Schedule 1 test, transitional Cultural Test (32 points) and the Cultural Test (31 points).

Interim certification (applicable to Schedule 1 Cultural Test films from January 2007) is not a pre-requisite for receiving final certification under the Cultural Test. Some films receive their final certification without having received an interim certificate.

## 2. Definitions

**Schedule 1 films** are British films certified under Schedule 1 to the Films Act 1985. To qualify under this definition, films commencing principal photography on or after 1 January 2007 must pass a UK Cultural Test awarding points for UK elements in the story, setting and characters and for where and by whom the film was made.

On the basis of recommendations made by the UK Film Council, the Secretary of State grants 'interim approval' prior to the completion of the film to those films that meet the criteria and 'final certification' once the film has been completed and final documents submitted.

**Official UK co-productions** are British films certified under one of the UK's official co-production agreements or the European Convention on Cinematographic Co-production. 'Interim approval' is granted prior to the start of principal photography to films that meet the criteria and 'final certification' once the film has been completed and final documents submitted. Films made as official co-productions are not required to pass the Cultural Test for British film.

See UK Film Council website for full details of the Cultural Test and other information on British film certification (<http://www.ukfilmcouncil.org.uk/qualifying>).

**UK spend** is the value of production activities in the UK for Schedule 1 films and UK expenditure for co-productions. The UK expenditure for co-productions may include some expenditure on UK goods and services which takes place outside the UK.

**Total production value** is the sum of total budget for Schedule 1 films and total investment for UK co-productions.

**Total investment** (in relation to co-productions) is the sum of each participating country's investment in the co-production and approximates the production budget.

## **Pre-release Access**

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