

## British film certification, Jan-Sept 2010

UK Film Council Research and Statistics Unit

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A total of 141 British films received final certification in the first nine months of 2010, the highest number of the last four years, as Table 1 shows. Most of the finally certified films in Jan-Sept 2010 were Schedule 1 films, but the number of co-productions certified in the period was more than double the number certified in the same period of 2009.

As with the numbers of certifications, both the total production budget in Jan-Sept 2010 (£933.1m) and UK spend (£753.3m) were the highest of the last four years. Note that these data are for final certifications, so include films produced over the previous one to three years<sup>1</sup>. In the first nine months of 2010, UK spend was 81% of total budget, an increase of 10 percentage points compared with 2009. Significant titles receiving final certification in Jan-Sept 2010 included *Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince*, *The Wolfman*, *Robin Hood*, *Nowhere Boy*, *Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang* and *St. Trinians 2: The Legend of Fritton's Gold*.

**Table 1: FINAL CERTIFICATIONS, Jan-Sept 2007 to 2010**

Type of certification		Jan-Sep 2007	Jan-Sep 2008	Jan-Sep 2009	Jan-Sep 2010
Schedule 1	Number	73	71	107	127
	UK spend £m	194.9	256.2	273.4	709.6
	Total budget £m	270.2	405.7	369.3	831.7
	UK spend as % of budget	72.1%	63.2%	74.0%	85.3%
Co-production	Number	53	3	6	14
	UK spend £m	119.6	9.9	20.2	43.7
	Total budget £m	348.7	14.1	44.7	101.4
	UK spend as % of total budget	34.3%	70.1%	45.3%	43.1%
All types	<b>Number</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>141</b>
	<b>UK spend £m</b>	<b>314.5</b>	<b>266.1</b>	<b>293.7</b>	<b>753.3</b>
	<b>Total production budget £m</b>	<b>618.9</b>	<b>419.8</b>	<b>413.9</b>	<b>933.1</b>
	<b>UK spend as % of total budget</b>	<b>50.8%</b>	<b>63.4%</b>	<b>70.9%</b>	<b>80.7%</b>

Source: UK Film Council

'Total Budget' in the case of Sch1 films is the sum of production activity in the UK and production activity outside the UK; in the case of co-productions it is the sum of investments made by all participating countries in the film.

Interim certifications give an indication of the future level of official UK film production. Table 2 shows the numbers, UK spend and production value of British films receiving interim certification in Jan-Sept 2007 to 2010. The number of interim-certified Schedule 1

<sup>1</sup> For current production statistics, see [http://www.ukfilmcouncil.org.uk/media/pdf/b/a/Jan-Sept\\_2010\\_Production\\_Report\\_FINAL\\_20.10.10.pdf](http://www.ukfilmcouncil.org.uk/media/pdf/b/a/Jan-Sept_2010_Production_Report_FINAL_20.10.10.pdf)

films fell to 101 (114 in Jan-Sep 2009) while the number of interim-certified official co-productions increased by one from 14 in 2009 to 15 in Jan-Sep 2010.

The anticipated UK spend as a percentage of the total budget fell slightly, to 69%, for interim-certified Schedule 1 films in Jan-Sep 2010, but for co-productions the UK spend as a percentage of the total budget increased to 40% in 2010 (compared with 36% in Jan-Sep 2009).

**Table 2: INTERIM CERTIFICATIONS, Jan-Sept 2007 to 2010**

Type of certification		Jan-Sep 2007	Jan-Sep 2008	Jan-Sep 2009	Jan-Sep 2010
Schedule 1	Number	80	93	114	101
	UK spend £m	613.9	499.2	623.3	330.7
	Total budget £m	850.2	600.4	844.3	478.0
	UK spend as % of budget	72.2%	83.2%	73.8%	69.2%
Co-production	Number	17	10	14	15
	UK spend £m	42.8	33.9	29.8	29.0
	Total budget £m	75.5	73.5	82.1	72.0
	UK spend as % of total budget	56.6%	46.1%	36.3%	40.2%
All types	<b>Number</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>116</b>
	<b>UK spend £m</b>	<b>656.6</b>	<b>533.1</b>	<b>653.1</b>	<b>359.7</b>
	<b>Total production budget £m</b>	<b>925.7</b>	<b>673.9</b>	<b>926.4</b>	<b>550.0</b>
	<b>UK spend as % of total budget</b>	<b>70.9%</b>	<b>79.1%</b>	<b>70.5%</b>	<b>65.4%</b>

Source: UK Film Council

'Total Budget' in the case of Sch1 films is the sum of production activity in the UK and production activity outside the UK; in the case of co-productions it is the sum of investments made by all participating countries in the film.

## Budgets

While the numbers of co-productions have dropped in recent years, the median budget has fallen only slightly. As Table 3 shows, in the first nine months of 2010, the median budget of co-productions receiving interim certification was £3.3 million, compared with £4-4.3m in 2003-2005.

**Table 3: Median budgets of INTERIM CO-PRODUCTION certifications**

Year	Median budget £m
2002	3.5
2003	4.3
2004	4.2
2005	4.0
2006	5.1
2007	3.7
2008	4.7
2009	3.6
2010ytd	3.3

Source: UK Film Council

The 'median' is the middle value, i.e. half the productions have higher budgets than the median; the other half have lower budgets.

In contrast, as shown in Table 4, the median budget of interim Schedule 1 certifications has dropped over the last four years, from £2.0 million to £1.3 million. However, the median budget for films receiving interim Schedule 1 certification in the first nine months of 2010 is slightly higher than the median budget for films receiving interim certification in 2009 (£1.1 million).

**Table 4: Median budgets of INTERIM SCHEDULE 1 certifications**

Year	Median budget £m
2007	2.0
2008	1.4
2009	1.1
2010ytd	1.3

Source: UK Film Council

Interim Schedule 1 certifications have only been issued since 2007, when the new film tax relief came into effect.

The 'median' is the middle value, i.e. half the productions have higher budgets than the median; the other half have lower budgets. In Jan-Sep 2010, budgets for interim Schedule 1 films ranged from under £50,000 to substantially above £100 million.

## Co-production agreements

In Jan-Sep 2010, 11 of the 14 final co-production certifications were under the European Convention on Cinematic Co-production, two were under the UK-Australia agreement and one was under the UK-Canada agreement.

Of the 15 interim co-production certifications, eight were under the European Convention, three were under the UK-South Africa agreement, two were under the UK-Canada agreement and two were under the UK-New Zealand agreement.

## 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). For films certified in 2008 or later only the latest Cultural Test (31 points) applies.

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.

### **3. Revisions**

As the status and certification dates of individual films may change as a result of changing circumstances, the numbers published in this release are subject to revision. Each release in this series includes revisions of previous quarters, so the latest release should be referred to as the most accurate summation available of the certification numbers.

### **Pre-release Access**

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