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Lord Wharton
Chair
Office for Students
Finlaison House
15 – 17 Furnival Street
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4 May 2021

Dear Lord Wharton

Consultation on recurrent funding for 2021-22

I am writing with great concern about the Government's view that creative courses are no longer to be among its strategic priorities.

The proposal to reduce funding for courses in music, dance, drama and performing arts; art and design; media studies; and archaeology by 49 percent appears to be in direct contradiction to the widespread recognition of the Creative Industries Council estimates that since 2010, GVA has increased by more than 43 per cent, or more than twice as fast as the UK economy (£115.9bn in 2019).

Craft sales alone were worth over £3bn in 2019¹.

73% of UK adults had bought craft in 2019 – snapping up almost 25 million handcrafted objects. DCMS' latest export figures show that craft was worth £4.848 billion to the UK economy in 2017².

There was an increase of 5.3% from 2016 to 2017 and the value has gone up 31% between 2010 and 2017.

At 1.4% of the whole of UK exports, craft goods were the highest exports of all the creative industries.

The Crafts Council, alongside partners across the creative industries, has long championed the value of creative education, but expressed concern at the

¹ The Market for Craft, Crafts Council, 2020

² DCMS Sectors Economic Estimates 2017: Trade (See table 33)

reduction in 3D creative subjects across the formal education system and the resulting impact it will have on the UK's design and manufacturing capabilities.

The Government's desire to see "provision in those subject areas to continue to be widely available" would seem to be in direct contradiction to the subsequent statement that, "we believe they are nevertheless lower priority for OfS funding than other high-cost subjects." The funding increases announced for specialist arts provision is welcome, but this will be eclipsed across the higher education sector by the reduction in art and design courses in mainstream universities.

I write to oppose the Government's proposals in the strongest possible terms.

Yours sincerely

Rosy Greenlees

Executive Director

