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# BAFTSS

British Association of  
Film, Television and  
Screen Studies

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School of Creative Arts  
University of Lincoln  
Brayford Pool  
LN6 7TS

The Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP  
Secretary of State for Education  
House of Commons  
SW1 0AA

4 February 2024

CC Vikki Howells MS, Minister for Further and Higher Education  
Jenny Gilruth MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills  
Paul Givan, Minister for Education

Dear Bridget Phillipson,

The British Association of Film, Television and Screen Studies calls on the Government to intervene as a matter of urgency to stop the mass layoffs planned by higher education institutions across the UK. We cannot comprehend how a Labour government can stand by as the predicted consequences of the refusal to treat higher education as a public good by previous governments play out.

To do nothing now is to accept irreversible damage as hundreds of careers are lost, subject areas are closed and research projects are discontinued. The announced cuts, which disproportionately affect the arts and humanities, will spread their impacts beyond the jobs lost and the careers broken. They will harm and impoverish the communities, civil society groups, private and public enterprises, heritage groups, creative projects and entertainment sectors not to mention scholarly networks that rely on the research and knowledge exchange threatened with devastation.

We urge the Government to implement a set of measures to resolve the funding crisis in the sector and to work with unions, subject associations, universities and the public to fulfil its manifesto pledge to [create a secure future for higher education](#).

On behalf of the BAFTSS Executive Committee

Yours sincerely



Gábor Gergely PhD FHEA  
Chair