***LETTER TEMPLATE – FOR THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT***

***Use the template below to send an email to your local MSP.***

***Find your local MSP and write to them here:*** [***www.writetothem.com***](http://www.writetothem.com)

***Remember to add your name and the MSPs name to the below.***

Dear [MSP NAME],

As a supporter of Edinburgh Deaf Festival, I am writing to express my deep concern at Creative Scotland’s decision not to fund this essential cultural event.

This decision has put Edinburgh Deaf Festival at risk, which will have a huge impact on the deaf community in Scotland, and across the world. Deaf people could lose a vibrant cultural space in which to celebrate their identity, culture, language, and heritage.

Their decision not to fund the festival not only denies deaf people the right to equal access to Scotland’s culture and arts, but it goes against the BSL National Plan as set out by the Scottish Government. Given the recent publication of the BSL National Plan that says the Scottish Government will “work with Creative Scotland to help embed BSL further within culture and the arts in Scotland”, I find this decision astonishing.

How can we have on the one hand a clear commitment to the deaf community, while on the other hand, a refusal to fund an initiative so crucial to achieving this? I urge you to consider additional funding be made available to the arts, to ensure that Edinburgh Deaf Festival can continue in 2024 and beyond.

[YOUR NAME]