



British Film Commission
Suite 6.10, The Tea Building
56 Shoreditch High Street
London E1 6JJ, UK
Tel +44 (0)20 7613 7676

Rob Tulloch
Planning Officer
Camden Town Hall
Judd Street
London
WC1H 9JE

29 May 2015

Dear Mr Tulloch

Ref: AIR Studios

The British Film Commission (BFC) is the UK Government's national organisation responsible for inward investment film and television production in the UK. Funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, UK Trade and Investment and the British Film Institute, the BFC leads on:

- Maximising and supporting the production of major international feature film and high-end television in the UK
- Strengthening and promoting the UK's film and television production infrastructure
- Liaising between the Government and the film and television industry on legislative issues that impact on production

We have been made aware of a planning permission application that has been made to Camden Council on behalf of 11 Rossllyn Hill, London ,NW3 5UL (application number: 2015/2089/P), the property next to AIR Studios, Lyndhurst Hall, Lyndhurst Road, London, NW3 5NG. As you will know, the proposed work on the property would necessitate approximately six months construction work, and the noise pollution and underground vibration caused by this work would mean that AIR Studios would be unable to continue to operate for the entire period.

AIR Studios, along with London's Abbey Road Studios, is one of only two recording studios in the UK that is able to provide score recording services to the major international feature films which choose to base themselves in the UK; recent productions that have made use of AIR Studios' facilities include *Marvel's Avengers: Age of Ultron*, *Disney's Cinderella* and New Line Cinema's *The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies*. The UK's sound recording facilities are amongst the most prestigious in the world and are a major component of the production services the UK offers to international producers, a fact illustrated by all five nominees for Best Original Score at the 2015 Academy Awards having been recorded in the UK. If AIR Studios were unable to operate for an extended period of

time, the UK's draw for major international productions would be severely compromised, which in turn could have severe implications for the wider UK economy.

The BFI Research and Statistics Unit announced in February that the total UK spend from feature films that commenced in 2014 was £1,471 million; the highest figure since measurements began in 1994. Inward investment feature films contributed a total of £1,233 million to that figure; a 40% increase since the previous year and therefore creating literally thousands of British jobs. The huge success of feature film production in the UK led the Chancellor of the Exchequer to announcing further enhancements to the UK Film Tax Relief in March of this year and in June 2014, the Prime Minister launched a major Creative Industries Strategy which aims to double the value of the UK's creative industries exports, including film and high-end television, to £31 billion by 2020. To further demonstrate the importance of film and television to the UK economy:

- In 2013 the core UK film sector; supported 39,800 Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs) of direct employment and; contributed £1.4 billion in direct Gross Value Added (GVA).
- The UK film sector generated nearly £1.4 billion in exports in 2013, yielding a trade surplus of £916 million.
- The UK film sector displayed the highest export intensity of any UK service sector in 2013, with exports being equivalent to 65% of sectoral GVA. This was nearly double the export intensity of 35% observed across the overall UK economy.
- The UK film sector has made private sector capital investments in the UK of more than £425 million since 2007. This goes beyond the South East – where Pinewood Shepperton plc, Warner Bros. Studios Leavesden, and Industrial Light & Magic have all invested – to include Belfast, Bristol, and Cardiff Bay.
- Of the £21 billion of tourism spend by overseas visitors to the UK in 2013, an estimated £840 million can be attributed to film-induced tourism and; supported 8,400 FTEs of employment; generated £400 million in GVA and; contributed £92 million to the Exchequer.
- UK-made films also led to an estimated £226 million in merchandise sales in the UK in 2013 and the placement of the UK on screens around the globe led to an additional £717 million in turnover for UK companies in 2013.
- Taking account of the total economic contribution (including multiplier and spillover effects) the core UK film sector in 2013; supported 97,300 FTEs of employment; generated £3.7 billion in GVA and; contributed £1.1 billion to the Exchequer.
- For each pound of Film Tax Relief (FTR) granted across the period 2006-07 to 2013-14, £12.49 in additional GVA was created through direct and multiplier effects. This equates to a taxation return for the Exchequer of £3.74 in additional tax revenues for each pound of relief granted.

In my role as Chief Executive of the British Film Commission and Film London, it is incumbent on me to do everything I can to facilitate production and post production in the UK due to the positive impact on the economy, on employment and on the international profile of UK PLC. To have built a

reputation as one of the leading destinations for international production and post production in this challenging economic climate and during a period of intense international competition brings enormous kudos to the organisations that support filming in the UK, of whom AIR Studios is a pivotal member.

On behalf of the British Film Commission and AIR Studios, I'd like to thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter. Please don't hesitate to contact me should I be able to provide further information on any of the above.

Yours sincerely



Adrian Wootton
Chief Executive
British Film Commission and Film London