

## High-end television tax relief working group meeting

The working group met for the first time on Wednesday 25 July 2012 with officials from HM Treasury, HM Revenue and Customs and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) in attendance. Following introductions and the circulating of draft terms of reference for agreement after the meeting, the group raised some initial views on the proposed design of the tax relief. The working group members supported using the film tax relief model as the basis for the new high-end television tax relief. Although some changes in design will be needed, in general the members supported keeping the design of the high-end television relief as simple as possible and as closely aligned to the film tax relief model.

Key themes from the consultation document were discussed: definition of high-end television (number of parts in a normal series, slot time versus running time); identifying qualifying 'core expenditure'; whether documentaries should qualify; whether costs relating to pilots will qualify; setting an appropriate rate of relief to be internationally competitive; the cultural test.

The group also discussed the evidence gathering needed to support policy design and State aid application (as set out in Annex B of the consultation document) and agreed to provide evidence, particularly on production case studies, before the next meeting of the working group. The group also raised the issue of the cultural test and its proposed design. DCMS confirmed that they plan to share a draft cultural test with the group in advance of the next meeting to begin testing these proposals.

The next meeting of the working group is likely to be end August, before the closing date for responses to the consultation on 10 September 2012.