



Buckinghamshire Film Office

The first year





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Major growth in film and high-end TV

- Below data is as reported last year, BFI are expected to release new data later in January – will be included for Select Committee
- The combined total UK spend on film and high-end TV productions for 2021 was **£5.64 billion**, £1.27 billion higher than previous peak in 2019.
- The table below demonstrates the strength of recovery in 2021, with spend well above the 5 year average in each quarter:

UK £ spend (million) 2020/2021	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	12-month total
Film	127.6	707.5	559.6	159.6	1,554.2
HETV	814.2	1,586.2	1,021.0	664.3	4,085.6
Combined Film and HETV	941.7	2,293.7	1,580.6	823.87	5,639.9

Average UK £ spend (million) over the period 2016-2020	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	12-month total
Film average	538.5	476.8	640.0	314.3	1,969.5
HETV average	274.8	332.7	467.8	411.1	1,486.5
Combined average 2016-2020	813.23	809.45	1,107.81	725.44	3,455.93

Source: BFI – Film and other screen sectors production: Full Year 2021

New studios and expansions in around Buckinghamshire

There are a number of planned expansions and new studios proposed across the UK. The following list is just a handful of examples within Buckinghamshire and the surrounding areas.

- Pinewood Studios' Expansion, Screen Hub UK
- Wycombe Air Park/Booker Airfield – plans for two stages have been submitted to Buckinghamshire Council
- Symmetry Park, Aston Clinton - 170,000 sqft of studio space
- RD Studios – 45,000 sqft of studio space near Park Royal – opened April 2022
- Bray Film Studios – new sound stages planned
- Hertswood Studios – “the UK’s largest-ever film studio” planned for Borehamwood
- Sky Studios Elstree – 12 new sound stages

Aims of the Buckinghamshire Film Office

- Provide the effective delivery of a filming liaison and facilitation service to the film and broadcast industries by promoting and maintaining a film-friendly environment through the provision of an outstanding service to industry.
- Develop and oversee efficient filming application processes ensuring assessment of appropriate documentation and issuing of permissions/permits as required.
- Working to ensure filming takes place in a safe and controlled manner and that productions follow due diligence in informing residents and businesses of their activities and potential disruptions where appropriate
- Establish strong relationships with Location Managers, understanding their needs and delivering a responsive approach to location enquiries and filming applications.
- Support the promotion of Buckinghamshire as a premiere filming location and a screen tourism destination, working in partnership with the Filming in England team and Visit Bucks.

Film Office Key Achievements

- Streamlined customer processes for productions
- Developed a Code of Practice for filming in Bucks, to ensure to ensure productions are managed appropriately and disruption to local residents and businesses is minimised
- Developed a complementary suite of guidance around student filming, drone filming and fees and charges
- Launch of Buckinghamshire Film Office website – a one stop shop for productions to apply to film, businesses to register their services and information for residents
- Buckinghamshire Film Office launch at Pinewood with dedicated office space to facilitate industry links



Film Office Key Achievements - continued

- Joined the Filming in England partnership
- Developed Film Office branding
- Exhibited with our partner Filming in England at FOCUS 2022, a major international trade event for the film production community
- Developed a good reputation with Location Managers and received a number of positive testimonials

'When planning a large location shot, it's key for the council to understand filmmaking and be proactive. On a recent high profile Disney feature film, the BFO were supportive and went above and beyond. The Film Officer attended the residents' drop in consultation in Hambleton, having a presence throughout the whole process. The shoot was a success and the community complimentary of the experience. I would happily look to film in Buckinghamshire and work with the Film Office again.'

Rob Campbell-Bell

Supervising Location Manager

Summary of Year 1 stats

- Year 1 Income Target - £710k
(income for 2021/22 - £680k)
- Actual - £889,470.50 (estimated)
 - Property - £478,564.50
 - Highways - £113,056
 - Country Parks - £290,000
 - Parking Services – £4k (estimated)
 - Admin fees - £3,850
- Overall increase in income of 30%



Summary of Year 1 stats - continued

- We have tracked number of enquires, number of applications, number of productions, local spend and conversion rates for the first time this year, so have no comparable data

Type	Number of Productions	Number of Enquiries	Number of Completed Applications	Number of Shoot Days	Conversion Rate
Feature Film	6	11	9	20	81%
TV Drama	33	107	92	192	85%
Documentary	5	5	5	6	100%
Commercial	7	8	6	9	75%
Student	12	19	18	18	95%
Music Video/Promo	3	3	3	3	100%
* Total	66	153	133	248	87%

- We had a number of productions at different locations across the county with one production accounting for 14 enquiries
- We had 19 cancellations largely down to schedule changes, booking clashes or change of direction
- We turned down one request which was short notice for parks and did not allow for appropriate management/consultation required for the scene involved



Local Economic Impact

- It is estimated the filming managed by the Council generated a local spend of approx. £3.7m between April 2022 and December 2022. This figure is generated using a calculation provided by Filming in England. We are awaiting figures from Filming in England for the wider calculation for local spend on wider filming in Buckinghamshire (last year estimated to be £7.8m)
- Our new application software will enable us to capture data on employment of local crew. Whilst we have not actively tracked this activity in the first year, we are aware of at least 2 productions employing local crew into their first industry jobs

Property - Overview

- Filming income for property is up 110% from financial year 2021/22
- The majority of productions were TV dramas with 1 feature film and 2 documentaries filmed in Aylesbury Crown Court
- Lead in times for property locations varied from 2 days to 12 weeks ; we were able to meet the required turnaround times in all instances



Location	Number of Productions	Number of Bookings	Number of Shoot Days	Income (ex VAT)
Shoot locations	13	17	92	£435,212.50
Ancillary service locations	9	10	N/A	£43,352
Total	13	17	92	£478,564.50

Highways

Production Type	Road Closures	Traffic Management	Advisory	Number of Shoot Days
Feature Film	0	4	1	13
TV Drama	17	19	20	84
Commercial	0	1	2	4
Documentary	0	0	2	2
Student	0	0	17	18

- Total Income for Highways £113,056 (up 57% from 2021/22)
- 83 completed enquiries with lead-in times from 24 hours to 16 weeks
- We have a good reputation with Location Managers for turning around permits quickly for all types of highways applications

Country Parks

Production Type	Number of Bookings	Number of Shoot Days
Film	1	2
TV Drama	9	23
Commercial	5	5
Music Promo/Video	3	3
Documentary	1	2



- Total Income to date £263,950 expected to reach £290,000 by end of the financial year
- Income Target for Country Parks was £150,000 - additional income achieved is reinvested into maintenance/improvement of the parks as part of their self-financing model
- In addition to the 35 shoot days, there were 70 prep/strike days and 25 'hold over' days (usually weekends between filming) in Country Parks

Looking Forward

- Internally we have five objectives to ensure we are working towards being a film-friendly county and maximise inward investment;
 - Continue to work with teams internally to improve our service, processes and offer
 - Launch of new software in late November will allow for improved reporting in future
 - Continue to build relationships with town and parish councils
 - Capture appropriate customer experience metrics (using guidance from Filming in England's Emerging Film Office group)
 - Continue to promote our new locations database both internally and externally to highlight the county's film offer
- Screenskills – In year 2 we can start to focus on skills development within the county and pathways into the industry;
 - Continue to attend BLEP Creative Industries Action Group
 - Working with partners such as Pinewood, Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership, Resource Productions to develop our plans for screen skills locally
 - Build relationships with National Film and Television School, Bucks New University and Bucks College group to proactively assist in signposting opportunities to their students
 - Encourage productions to recruit crew locally wherever possible
- Screen tourism – Opportunity to tie in with the developing Visitor Economy Strategy
 - Work with colleagues in Economic Growth and Visit Bucks to realise the benefits of being a heavily filmed county – promoting high profile filming locations with tours and experiences

Any Questions?

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