

**GOVERNMENT COVID RESPONSE MEASURES – SUPPORT FOR LOCAL PRODUCTION SECTORS TO DATE
INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON: ANALYSIS OF NEW MEASURES AND ADDITIONAL FUNDING
AS AT AUGUST 2020**

	Direct stimulus	Insurance assistance	Foreign production boost ¹	Broadcaster quota change	Broadcaster licence fee relief
Leading – net boost to local production sector					
United Kingdom	<p>The BFI COVID-19 Production Continuation Fund has made up to £2m available to independent British productions interrupted by COVID-19. It covers unexpected additional production costs arising from the pandemic.²</p> <p>Cinemas will benefit from a cut in VAT on tickets to 5%. Independent cinemas are also eligible for funding through the £1.57bn cultural recovery package.³</p> <p>Eligible projects can claim the relevant creative sector tax relief up until the point of abandonment.⁴</p> <p>BFI is providing £500k to support film sales and distribution</p>	<p>£500m announced to fill gap left by insurance.⁹</p> <p>Covers costs incurred due to delays or abandonment as a result of COVID.</p> <p>Can be backdated.</p> <p>Runs through to end June 2021.</p> <p>Costs covered up to a value of 20% of the budget for delays, and 70% for abandonment.</p>	<p>Nothing additional but noting that the UK had existing competitive support for international production.</p>	<p>Ofcom to consider individual instances of inability to comply on a case by case basis, looking to exceptional circumstances¹⁰</p>	<p>N/A – no substantive fees.</p>

Expansive insurance support plus measured broadcaster quota forbearance plus quarantine exemption

¹ Note that foreign production assists some elements of the local workforce, facilities, infrastructure

² <https://www.bfi.org.uk/supporting-uk-film/bfi-covid-19-production-continuation-fund>

³ <https://www.bfi.org.uk/supporting-uk-film/covid-19-answering-questions-screen-sectors>

⁴ <https://www.bfi.org.uk/supporting-uk-film/covid-19-answering-questions-screen-sectors>

⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/dowden-jump-start-for-uks-leading-creative-industries>

¹⁰ https://www.ofcom.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0033/195873/Note-to-broadcasters-Coronavirus-update.pdf

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	<p>companies. (Reallocation of existing funds)⁵</p> <p>BFI resilience fund of £800k for BFI funded features that were interrupted. Funds ensured employees provided with 2 weeks notice. (Reallocation of existing funds).⁶</p> <p>Screen sector taskforce convened.⁷</p> <p>Quarantine exemption for inbound international cast and crew.⁸</p>	<p>Cap on claims per production of £5m, with an excess payable.</p>			
Canada	<p>Canadian Media Fund (CMF) and Telefilm Canada COVID-19 Emergency Relief funds worth C \$115m¹¹ (part of overall C\$500m arts support package)¹²</p>	<p>C\$51m support announced by Quebec provincial government to compensate producers for business interruptions caused by COVID-19.¹⁵</p>	<p>Nothing additional but noting Canada had existing competitive support for international production.</p>	<p>Requested by broadcasters, regulator decision pending.</p>	<p>Waived for 2020-21. Worth approx. C\$30m.¹⁶</p>

Generous direct stimulus. National insurance support under consideration.

⁵ <https://www.bfi.org.uk/supporting-uk-film/bfi-covid-19-uk-sales-company-organisational-support-fund>

⁶ <https://www.bfi.org.uk/news-opinion/news-bfi/announcements/package-support-uk-industry-covid-19>

⁷ <https://variety.com/2020/film/news/british-film-institute-taskforce-coronavirus-1203536601/>

⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/selected-sporting-events-tv-and-film-exempt-from-quarantine>

¹¹ <https://cassels.com/insights/covid-19-impact-federal-government-allocates-115-8-million-dollars-in-emergency-funding-to-screen-based-industries/>

¹² <https://www.cmf-fmc.ca/en-ca/news-events/news/april-2020/canada-media-fund-welcomes-government-of-canada-co>

¹⁵ <https://www.insurancebusinessmag.com/ca/news/breaking-news/quebec-reveals-51-million-stimulus-program-for-local-film-and-tv-industry-227923.aspx>

¹⁶ https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/news/2020/03/covid-19-the-government-of-canada-provides-relief-to-the-broadcasting-sector.html?utm_source=miragenews&utm_medium=miragenews&utm_campaign=news

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	<p>Additional flexibility in administration of CMF in terms of payment schedules, production deadlines and other allocation measures.¹³</p> <p>Production sector Taskforce convened.¹⁴</p>	National insurance measure under consideration.			
Intermediate – mixed impact on local production sector					
New Zealand	<p>Screen Production Fund of NZ\$73.4m.</p> <p>NZ\$50m will fund up to 5 feature films or limited series.</p> <p>Remaining NZ\$23.4m to be distributed through NZ On Air and NZ Film Commission to fund the additional costs incurred by screen productions that have been shut down, delayed or constrained by COVID-19 restrictions.¹⁷</p>	None to date.	NZ\$140m top up for the Screen Production Grant for International Productions.	N/A – no quotas.	N/A – no substantive fees.

Additional money for direct stimulus but no insurance support yet announced.

¹³ <https://cmf-fmc.ca/getattachment/235332ca-5e03-4f07-a337-fa4327f23a33/attachment.aspx>

¹⁴ <https://cmf-fmc.ca/en-ca/news-events/news/march-2020/covid-19-production-industry-taskforce>

¹⁷ <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/political/420268/government-announces-film-and-tv-sector-recovery-package>

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France	<p>Emergency fund for creators whose earnings have dropped more than 50%, with a flat payment of €1500 for others.</p> <p>Companies receiving CNC subsidy support can claim up to 30% of their annual approved funding to cover cash flow.¹⁸</p>	<p>€100m (part Government, part private) to cover expenses incurred by majority French productions forced to halt filming due to COVID-19.</p> <p>Covered up to the value of 30% of insurance capital, with a ceiling of €1.8m.¹⁹</p>	None to date.	<p>The CNC has written to broadcasters indicating it will show tolerance and understanding in the application of the regulatory framework.</p> <p>It will take into account the individual situation of each service and the proportionality of the variations observed to the difficulties encountered.²⁰</p>	N/A – no licence fees.

Limited stimulus. Comprehensive insurance support. Measured forbearance for broadcasters.

¹⁸ <https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/europes-coronavirus-industry-support-programs-a-country-by-country-guide-1289518>

¹⁹ <https://cineuropa.org/en/newsdetail/389610/>

²⁰ <https://www.csa.fr/Informer/Espace-presse/Communiqués-de-presse/Courrier-de-Roch-Olivier-Maistre-aux-editeurs-de-services-et-aux-syndicats-de-radios-et-télévisions>

	Direct stimulus	Insurance assistance	Foreign production boost ¹	Broadcaster quota change	Broadcaster licence fee relief
Trailing – net negative impact on local production sector					
Australia	<p>The Screen Australia COVID-19 Budget Support Fund will cover additional costs for green-lit productions to implement their COVID-Safety and Risk Assessment Plans to allow them to go into production safely. (Reallocation of existing funds).²¹</p> <p>Screen Australia Premium Plus fund provided late-stage development funding to high-budget projects with firm market interest that were impacted by COVID-19. (Reallocation of existing funds).²²</p> <p>No additional funding for local production.</p> <p>\$10m for charity Support Act which provides crisis relief to all creative workers (including film and TV crews) who have lost work.²³</p>	<p>Yes - \$50m Temporary Interruption Fund announced in June, applications now open.²⁴</p> <p>Coverage of 60% of budget or \$4m whichever is less.</p> <p>Coverage for last 2 weeks of pre-production and for principal photography for COVID-19 death or illness of named individuals.</p>	<p>\$400m incentive over 7 years for international film and television production. (Continuation of existing support program to ensure Australia remains competitive with comparable territories).²⁵</p>	<p>Quota requirements for Australian drama, children’s and documentary television content waived for 2020. Government has undertaken to make a decision on 2021 quotas by the end of 2020.</p> <p>Effect has been to create uncertainty in contracting and advanced projects and paused development of others.</p>	<p>12 month waiver of spectrum taxes (\$41m).²⁶</p>

No new money for stimulus for local industry. Limited insurance support. Damaging blanket forbearance to broadcasters

²¹ <https://www.screenaustralia.gov.au/covid-19-support>

²² <https://www.screenaustralia.gov.au/sa/screen-news/2020/07-08-premium-plus-fund-to-close>

²³ <https://supportact.org.au/support-act-welcomes-federal-government-funding-for-covid-19-response/>

²⁴ <https://www.paulfletcher.com.au/media-releases/joint-media-release-250-million-jobmaker-plan-to-restart-australias-creative-economy>

²⁵ <https://www.paulfletcher.com.au/media-releases/media-release-new-400-million-incentive-to-boost-jobs-for-screen-industry>

²⁶ <https://www.paulfletcher.com.au/media-releases/media-relase-immediate-covid-19-relief-for-australian-media-as-harmonisation-reform>