

**CULTURE, TOURISM, EUROPE AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**ARTS FUNDING INQUIRY**

**SUBMISSION FROM ALEC FINLAY**

Two proposals for improving the situation in terms of public commissions for artists – for discussion.

1. Firstly, the commissioner should state clearly how many artists will be interviewed. I've had the expense of attending interviews only to be told a dozen artists are being considered, and sometimes a local artist that is selected, simply because they work nearby.
2. Secondly, for any commission over £6K – which is true for most major commissions – an amount of 15% of the fee should be distributed equally between the competing artists, to ensure they receive some recompense for the work involved preparing proposals. This was the practice in some regions/organisations previously. Yes, the "winner" gets less fee overall, but most artists would agree to a slightly smaller fee in order that they run less risk of receiving nothing for their work when they aren't. I'd suggest Creative Scotland don't fund commission that don't follow this practice. There always have to be winners in selection processes, but the amount of unpaid work involved is unacceptable.