

“Investigate 1992 Video Funding Strategy Council Report” Petition – Supporting Info

When the Recreation Committee Councillors were presented the Video Funding Strategy report on 14th December 1992, they were told that the assessment of the city’s video projects within it was the work of John Adams, a Newcastle-based independent video producer and arts consultant.

It later transpired that his assessment had been severely edited to the extreme detriment of the city’s only truly accessible video organisation at that time, the Video Access Centre (VAC). John Adams stated on 10/1/19 that “the document that had been published [for Committee] had been doctored.. From what I gather, all the positive things I said about VAC were redacted and the argument was used to cut their funding. My feeling in the end about all is that I was used as a patsy. I felt totally used but there was nothing I could do about it... The fact is that the report as presented is different to the one I submitted.”

We feel it is now time to shine a light on who was responsible for this action. There are staff still at the Council who were employed by Recreation at that time who have valuable information that needs to be brought into the public domain.

We believe the unfair way that VAC was treated over this matter and for subsequent years by Recreation officers, with constant funding cuts, led to the point that when they had to close in 2006. At that time their funding was one half of what it had been in 1992, even though they were by then well established as the City’s leading body in providing public access and training to film and video technology; their ongoing lack of adequate Council support was a key factor in their ultimate demise and the city is the poorer for it. Facilities and support to film and video-makers in Glasgow is far better in 2019 than Edinburgh’s. We believe that the falsification of Adams’ work in 1992 is key to explaining why this is; it needs to be investigated and the Council officer who pruned his work so unfairly must be identified.

We note the view expressed on the Kids not Suits website penned by the petitioner, who was then treasurer of VAC, that he believes the culprit who falsified the report is now the Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government, a matter which should be of concern to all taxpayers, given the recent court case from Alex Salmond, which the Government did not contest, and which cost the Government an estimated £500,000, money which could have been better spent on schools and hospitals. We believe the exposure and identification of the culprit in the 1992 VAC saga will help force staffing changes at the Government which will save us all money in the long run.

The Kids not Suits website link is at www.kidsnotsuits.com/fake-news-how-public-lies-begin