DTRH statement update

We want to provide a follow up to our letter to our members which we posted here with a bit more explanation of our position over DTRH.

We want to clarify that BECTU and MU do not “support” the running of DTRH 2023 and we considered our statements carefully to avoid giving the impression that we do support it. Our members contacted us to try and get them money that they are owed by the festival. We are doing what we can to make this happen.

The joint decision not to campaign for the festival to be banned for now was based on a couple of important considerations.

Firstly Stirling council made it very clear to us that the licensing process is legally a strictly administrative process and provided any organisers meet the administrative and operational requirements then the council has no authority to prevent them getting a licence.Sadly the fact that they owe a great deal of money has no part in that process. BECTU and the MU have subsequently raised this with the Scottish government and have urged them to bring forward legislation to give local authorities the powers to withhold licences from organisations who don’t operate in a financially responsible way.

Secondly we are aware that a number of supply companies, Technical crews and Artists have signed up for the 2023 festival already. They have done this because of the “100% in advance” guarantee and in the hope that the smaller festival this year may generate some profits to start paying back people and companies.

As we said in the email to our members we fully appreciate that many people will be rightly sceptical that anyone will see any of their money back but the only other alternative is no one gets any money back at all.

We still remain sceptical that they will get a festival off the ground this year or if they do that it will make any profits but given that they engaged with us and are committed to keeping BECTU and the MU updated on the financial situation we felt that we shouldn’t seek to block the event just yet on the slim chance that people owed money from last year might get something back.

This is not our final position on this by any means. If DTRH do not keep the agreements they have made on the prepayments or the promise not to hold a festival if it looks like losing money again then we will look at what further actions we can take.