

memo to RW
from dc
12 6 91

re Wilf's letter of the 31st may in reply to AE:

I read this as saying - you should be pleased; GLAB can now concentrate on Arts Council Arts Broadcasting initiatives. The new MDA will take over (most of?) the funding responsibilities formerly held by GLA.

This seems to ignore a number of points:

* the 'MDA-style solutions for Birmingham, Sheffield and Newcastle' quoted by Wilf all involve a partnership between the RAB - which continues to look after workshops, and production seed-funding etc, and the MDA which develops initiatives designed to promote the audio-visual industries over a much broader 'industry-led' front. (Its tempting to see - in part - a parallel OAL / DTI partnership of interests at work; if not - there should be).

* The notion of joint-ownership/joint assessment by the AC & BFI of RAB clients of interest to both parties, which we have been successfully advancing with BFI planning dept colleagues, would become extremely complicated if these clients are now to 'owned' directly by the BFI (or its client - the London MDA), rather than clients of our jointly funded RABs. In fact, I can't see that we could be involved at all, except on a one-off negotiated basis (eg LVA, LFMCo-op). The loss would be the BFI's, which (quite properly) was hoping that jointly owned clients would be eligible for AC development funding.

* GLA, seems determined to steam on with its present policies, and as you know has just tapped reserves to find £50K for production awards for its traditional constituency. But we will surely not be able to allow this to continue hereafter? Without BFI input, all GLAB film/video funding will indeed have to persue AC Arts Broadcasting and Artists' FV policies...