

Dear Sir/ Madam

I am the mother of a 15 year old child actor from Scotland.
My son is also an Equity member.

My son [X] has acted since the age of 5 and shows a passion and resilience for this industry beyond his years.

However, the financial pressure we find as parents every time he has to attend an audition in London is crippling.

So far we are managing (just) to pay costly rail travel or air fares to make sure he doesn't miss out on an opportunity.

Recently he was lead in a film which was filmed in Scotland which was fabulous.

However apart from the first stage audition in Edinburgh the other 2 recalls were both London.

None of the English actors had to attend Edinburgh in person but sent self tapes. Subsequently there after they did attend recalls in London.

I've lost count of the times I've been down to London even without a self tape first for him to be in and out the casting room in 5 mins.

It's wonderful he's being asked to do this but not only is it overwhelmingly tiring to do Glasgow to London and back in a day but massively expensive.

There are some kids who's parents just have to say no because of the cost. This to me is heart breaking because their talent will never be known due to a lack of being able to afford to pay massive travel costs.

Please make it a level playing field for all and be inclusive to all.. Not just for those who can afford to attend auditions! Or make it mandatory for production companies to pay travel expenses to attend auditions out with realistic boundaries.

Talent should be looked at fairly and like Education these attainment gaps should be closed. We have a wealth of The next generation of home grown talent on our doorstep please don't put up barriers because some of our young people and their parents are not able to pay to get them to auditions that cost (in some cases) more than putting food on the table.

Yours Sincerely
Elaine Cramond.