

## The Questionnaire

### General

- **Name of Worldcon Bid**

### UK in 2024

- **Who will represent your convention and how can they be contacted?**

Esther MacCallum-Stewart

Mails for all queries: [info@ukin2024.com](mailto:info@ukin2024.com)

- **What are the dates for your convention?**

August 2024

Depending on which site is chosen, the preferred dates are slightly different as we wish to avoid the Paris Olympics in 2024 in order to keep flight prices down as much as possible.

- **Who is your Chair? Who is on your committee? What experience do they have in general? In running Worldcons?**

The team is led by Esther MacCallum-Stewart

Working Party Members:

James Bacon  
Steve Cooper  
Colin Harris  
Vincent Docherty  
Phil Dyson  
Alice Lawson  
Mark Meenan  
Brian Nisbet  
Marguerite Smith  
Paul Taylor  
Nicholas Whyte  
Ben Yalow

The group consists of four previous Worldcon chairs and chairs from national conventions in Scotland, England and Ireland. We also have a more general discussion group - please speak to Esther if you want to join it.

- **If known, who will be the chair of the convention? What experience do they have?**

Much too early to decide at this stage.

- **Is your convention site in a city center location or a suburb? If a suburb, what are the transport options into the city center? How far is the site from the city center?**

We have decided to eliminate Liverpool as a choice since it did not have the infrastructure to support a Worldcon and the requirements of its members. We also felt that the interest and understanding of the needs of a Worldcon was more closely met by the two remaining contenders - the **SEC in Glasgow**, and the **ExCEL Centre, London**.

We have submitted RFP documents to both venues and requested a reply by 21st December, 2018.

[Glasgow SEC](#) (note new name - a whole letter removed!)

(Worldcons 95 and 05 were held here).

The SEC have updated their 3000 seat auditorium with better acoustics and seating. There are now six hotels on site with 800 rooms. The new adjoining arena has further conference rooms and breakout spaces which could be used for parties / launches.

Glasgow SEC has strong relations with previous Worldcons (1995, 2005) and a good relationship with the City, SEC and fans such as Mark Meenan and Vince Docherty exists. Mark Meenan has approached the SEC as our representative and they have been extremely interested in the possibility of hosting a Worldcon.

[The ExCel Centre, London](#)

The site of Loncon 3, the 2014 Worldcon.

There is an onsite hotel complex with multiple hotels of differing price ranges, and good transport links to central London.

London City Airport runs parallel to the ExCel Centre, and there is also rapid access to London Heathrow, London Gatwick and London Stansted Airports.

The ExCel has recently opened a new suite of rooms which are suitable for additional programming or parties. These rooms are attached to the same area as

the previous Worldcon was hosted in. Steve Cooper and Colin Harris have offered to be our representatives for the ExCEL Centre.

- **How far is your convention site from the nearest airport/train station and what is the realistic cost of getting to the hotels by both public transport and taxi from that airport/train station?**

**Glasgow SEC**

**Suburb Location**

**Dedicated train station:** Exhibition Centre Station

**Nearest International Airport:** Glasgow International

**Taxi From Airport** £15 (\$20)

**ExCEL Centre, London**

**Central Location**

**Dedicated Rail Link:** Custom House for ExCEL and Prince Regent on the Docklands Light Railway.

**Nearest International Airports:** London City, London Gatwick, London Heathrow, London Stansted.

**Taxi from Airport:** £20-50 (\$26-66), depending on arrival airport.

**Travel**

- **What is the typical current airfare to your closest airport from world cities such as London, Boston, Chicago, Dublin, Los Angeles, Melbourne?**

**Cheapest Return Flights for August 2019**

	<b>Birmingham</b>	<b>Glasgow</b>	<b>London</b>	<b>Manchester</b>
<b>Boston</b>	£613 (1 Stop) \$786	£692 (1) \$887	£510 (Direct) \$654	£692 (D) \$887
<b>Chicago</b>	£742 (1) \$951	£633 (1) \$812	£505 (D) \$647	£535 (1) \$686
<b>Dublin</b>	£35 (D) \$49	£100 (D) \$128	£49 (D) \$63	£30 (D) \$38
<b>Helsinki</b>	£199 (D) \$255	£228 (1) \$292	£93 (D) \$119	£191 (D) \$245
<b>London</b>	n/a (£27 train) \$35	£68 (D) \$87	n/a	£95 (D) \$122

<b>Los Angeles</b>	£763 (1) \$978	£718 (1) \$921	£654 (D) \$839	£768 (D) \$985
<b>Melbourne</b>	£1138 \$1459	£843 (2) \$1080	£568 (1) \$728	£816 (1) \$1046

- **Do international flights, as well as domestic, fly into your local airport? Which airlines? If not, where is the closest international airport? Are direct flights from the cities above flown into your local airport?**

As above. London is serviced by four major airports - London Heathrow, London Gatwick, Stansted and London City.

Glasgow is an international airport with numerous connections to both east and westbound flights.

We have also added Manchester and Birmingham to this list as viable alternatives which are often somewhat cheaper to fly into. Both are well served by direct trains to London and Glasgow.

## **Facilities**

- **What venues do you plan to use for the convention?**

The two venues under consideration are:

[SEC, Glasgow](#)

[ExCEL Centre, London](#)

## **What hotel(s) are being used for the convention?**

London and Glasgow both have hotels on site and we will negotiate with these, should we win. Again, a prior established relationship with both cities is useful here as they are aware of our needs.

### **Glasgow:**

There are 8308 hotel rooms available within 2 miles of the SEC, with six hotels on site. At present there are 2000 rooms via Airbnb operating throughout the city.

The Crowne Plaza Hotel is attached to the SEC, and we would anticipate using some of the rooms as programme / party space as has been done at previous

Worldcons hosted here. The area around the SEC (now called 'The Campus'), has seen rapid development over the last two years, including the addition of two more hotels (and another being built). There are now 7 on site hotels to fit a range of prices with the furthest 400m away from the SEC entrance.

The Crowne Plaza is attached to the Convention Centre.

The newly built [Radisson Red](#) (200m distance) contains artwork and murals in each of the 174 rooms by local comic book artist Frank Quitely, emphasising [the SEC's commitment to geek and fan culture](#). The hotel also contains a rooftop bar which overlooks the SEC campus and is suitable for private events / parties, and a large studio suite. Several other hotels on the Campus have party spaces or food/bar areas that can be booked out, and the [Hydro](#) also has event spaces and boxes which are ideal for private parties.

### **London:**

The ExCEL Centre has a series of hotels surrounding it at both ends of the complex, with the nearest hotel 50 metres from the entrance we would be using. This link takes you to a useful table detailing [the hotels used in 2014](#) and their distances from our entrance.

Parties would probably be in the ExCEL, as the UK does not have a tradition of room/hotel parties.

AirBnB operates throughout both cities.

- **Do hotel rates include breakfast?**

Yes, this is standard in the UK.

- **Do they include internet in the room?**

Yes, this is also standard in the UK and is usually free.

- **What is the distance from the main hotel(s) to the closest entrance of the convention site?**

### **Glasgow**

The Crowne Plaza is attached to the SEC building or a 50m walk outside. The other main hotels are between 150 - 400m away across level pavements in the SEC Campus area.

## London

The closest hotel to the ExCEL is 75m, across a road. The hotels are clustered in a block here.

- **What are the transportation options for those who prefer not to walk or who have mobility difficulties?**

Scooter and wheelchair rental are available from both venues. The train stop (Glasgow) and the Docklands Light railway are both wheelchair accessible, which most stops having an elevator available between platforms and the entrance / exit if required.

**Please describe your convention site facilities. For example, the quantity and sizes of function rooms, tech options, accessibility issues, etc.**

**Glasgow:**

**Map of SEC campus:**

<https://www.sec.co.uk/organise-an-event/capacities-dimensions>

**Room halls and dimensions map:**

[https://www.sec.co.uk/assets/doc/SEC\\_Capacities\\_2018\\_MAP\\_TABLE-feb0dc6bc8.pdf](https://www.sec.co.uk/assets/doc/SEC_Capacities_2018_MAP_TABLE-feb0dc6bc8.pdf)

We have not decided which combination of Halls 3-5 is a best fit yet, however would be looking to use the rest of the building and the Armadillo. We will not be using the Hydro auditorium (it is too large), but may consider some of the rooms in the building for programme and party spaces, should we require them.

**London:**

**Event Halls** (we would be looking to use the same areas as those for Loncon 3, which are located on the right hand side of this map)

<https://www.excel.london/uploads/uk-vital-statistics---event-halls.pdf>

**Programme Space and Exhibit Halls**

Here, we are looking at areas 8-12 (including the Auditorium, Capital Areas and London Suite, as well as some of Area 5 (North Event Halls), located closest to the right hand side of the map

<https://www.thebnc.co.uk/assets/images/Preferred%20Suppliers/ExCeL%20London/Excel%20Vital%20Statistics%20-%20UK%20version.pdf>

**Where will your large events (i.e. Hugo Ceremony and Masquerade) be held?**

## **Glasgow**

SEC: The Armadillo (3000 seats). The Armadillo is currently upgrading its sound and technical equipment - this will be ready for 2024.

<https://www.sec.co.uk/organise-an-event/event-spaces/sec-armadillo>

## **London**

London ExCEL: ICC Auditorium (4000). This is a custom built stage.

<https://www.excel.london/uploads/uk-vital-statistics---icc-auditorium.pdf>

## **Please describe the restaurant scene near your site.**

### **Glasgow**

There are various chains and eateries on site, including a pub and restaurants in each hotel. There is a supermarket about 500m from the venue (Sainsbury's). Glasgow has undergone a foodie revolution in the last few years and the centre of town now has a huge and often inexpensive range of excellent food, both local and international in flavour. It is also becoming a hub for excellent coffee, much to Esther's relief.

### **London**

The ExCel has a series of on site eateries and pubs including two branches of The Fox Inn, various fast food chains and several restaurants. There is a small supermarket at the far end of the venue (Tesco's). London has one of the most eclectic and international food scenes. For example, across the Thames via underground tunnel, the Underground system and the Docklands Light Railway is Greenwich, which has an internationally reputed food hall with many pop-up stalls. We recommend trying the curried goat, or the delicious Portuguese pastry stand.

## **What are the policies/laws regarding smoking at your:**

### **Hotels**

Smoking is allowed in some rooms, but this is unusual.

### **Convention Center:**

Total ban inside, with designated smoking areas away from buildings outside.

### **City:**

Total ban in public buildings, including bars, with smoking outside restricted to a designated distance away from buildings and doorways.

## **What type of weather can we expect at the time of year your convention is to be held?**

As British citizens, and Esther a Scot, our obsession with the weather is second to none and we thank you for this question. We recommend that anyone feeling a bit bored (which would obviously never happen at a SMOFcon, but even so!!) check out these handy weblinks rather than Google, mainly because they are really interesting and show lots of graphs.

<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/climate/>

<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/climate/gcuy0ce1v>

**Glasgow:** Average temp 15 degrees. Glasgow can be a wee bit nippy ('braw', in local slang), and Glaswegians like to make jokes about the rare appearance of 'the burning ball in the sky'. Pack a jumper. Also, it will rain, and when it does, it's usually heavy. Maybe also pack wellies so you can play in puddles.

**London:** Average temp 19 degrees. The ExCEL centre can be a windy outside because of the way it's been designed and because it's next to the Thames, however it's obviously slightly warmer than our Scottish cousins. Rainfall is also fairly common but London in the sunshine is a joy. Pack an ability to ask 'What's the weather like?' and get a five minute exposition on this.

If you require a super duper up to date app about weather, We also recommend Dark Sky (which can tell you what the weather is right now. Usually we'd say 'it's probably raining a bit', but the UK has experienced a heatwave this year due to a block of air pressure forming a relatively static anticyclone over the country and whilst that's a massive pain for us as residents, weatherwise it's been fascinating, albeit rather alarming, to observe)

<https://darksky.net/app>

## **What arrangements will be made for evening socializing and party space? Do you have a corkage waiver?**

**Glasgow** will now be able to easily hold parties on site due to some of the logistical changes in the SEC building which allow pop up bars and different uses of the space to that which previous attendees might have experienced. The surrounding hotels also have rooms which may be used for this; although Scotland does not have a culture of room parties or suites, provision for these events is now on site, and the SEC have dealt with us previously, so are aware of our needs here.



There is also a beautiful (and wheelchair accessible) bar space in the new Radisson Red hotel which overlooks the river, as well as several new eateries on site which would be suitable for private events.

Glasgow are aware of our corkage and forklage requirements, and have already committed to work with us on these needs, should they be selected.

**London** has a number of spaces within the ExCEL which can be used as rooms, although we might also look to a similar set up to Loncon 3 where parties were held in the main 'village'. The ExCEL have also indicated that they are partnering with a number of new local venues which would be suitable for private parties or events. They are in negotiation to purchase the onsite pub (The Fox, which is at the other end of the venue), which is on two levels, wheelchair accessible and has a capacity of about 500). We should caution people reading this that chain who own The Fox are VERY AWARE that their pub is in a prime location and this negotiation may be protracted.

- **Do you currently have a code of conduct in place for your bid/convention?**
  - **If so, what is it?**
  - **If not, do you intend to have one?**

In a similar way to Dublin 2019, when we formally launch our Bid, we will also announce a code of conduct for Bid Team members to abide by. This will guide us towards the CoC that we use if we should become a Worldcon. Dublin 2019 also regularly revise their CoC, in line with changes in fandom and beyond. We would anticipate doing the same in order to produce a robust policy and to work with the needs of attendees and team members.

- **Are you planning to have any membership discounts for certain groups, such as young adults, military, or seniors?**

Yes, we will consider this, should we be successful, as well as exploring the possibility of a First Worldcon membership. This latter has been crucial in drawing in new members and enhancing the local flavour of recent European Worldcons.

- **What are some of the main tourist attractions of your city?**

**Glasgow** was the city of Culture in 2014, and used this year to really develop it's cultural scene. This continues today with a huge emphasis on the local and regional importance of arts, creativity and performance. Glasgow also has numerous [quirky museums](#) and places to visit, and of course, there's lots of whisky, neeps and tatties.

**London.** As a capital city, London has everything from a thriving theatre scene (Hamilton opened here in January, and we're fairly convinced virtually every UK fan is going to or has already seen it), to museums about time and space (the Greenwich Observatory), taking in everything in between.