

## **Statement Regarding Updated 'Bid\_Convention Clearinghouse' Document**

The undersigned Worldcons and bids for Worldcon include this joint statement with our responses to the 'Bid\_Convention Clearinghouse' prepared for SMOFCon 37 in preparation for the "Fannish Inquisition/Question Time" event.

1. The number of questions included in the questionnaire increased from twenty-one (21) in prior years to seventy-one (71) questions in the current version, significantly increasing the workload to respond.
2. The notice of the new questionnaire was published by SMOFCon 37 on November 18, thirteen (13) days before the deadline to respond of December 1, 2019. The initial notice was sent to the list of the members of SMOFCon, and to the general SMOFs list. It was announced at that time that efforts to contact seated Worldcons and bids would take place afterwards, i.e., those who did not see the original announcement would have even less than 13 days to respond.
3. During this time, this was further problematised as over half of the standing chairs and bid chairs were attending an event in Chengdu (hosted by the Chengdu Bid Team) or taking part in extensive international travel during most of this time. Immediately following this was a national holiday in the USA.
4. In the spirit of fairness, we object to the fact that the format of the questionnaire was released in a manner that is completely inaccessible to one of the declared bids. Google Docs are not able to be accessed in China.
5. The attached submission represents the best effort that each Worldcon or Worldcon bid was able to coordinate in such a short time and with the understanding that all of us are volunteers.

Signed:

Bill Lawhorn and Colette H. Fozard, Co-Chairs, DisCon III  
Helen Montgomery and Dave McCarty, Co-Chairs, Chicago in 2022 Bid for Worldcon  
Cliff Dunn and Kate Secor, Co-Chairs, Memphis in 2023 Bid for Worldcon  
Esther MacCallum-Stewart, Chair, Glasgow in 2024 Bid for Worldcon  
Katharine Bond, Chair, Seattle in 2025 Bid for Worldcon

**Glasgow 2024**

# **FANNISH INQUISITION QUESTIONNAIRE**



## **General**

- **Name of Worldcon Bid**

**Glasgow 2024**

- **Who will represent your convention at SMOFcon and how can the bid be contacted?**

Vincent Docherty, Ben Yalow.

Esther MacCallum-Stewart, Brian Nisbet and Marguerite Smith will be attending remotely for some sessions.

e-mail for all queries: [info@glasgow2024.org](mailto:info@glasgow2024.org)

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

8 - 12th August 2024

- **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?**

Our venue is the [Scottish Event Campus, Glasgow \(SEC\)](#). It is approx 1000m from the city centre.

Glasgow SEC has strong relations with previous Worldcons - both Intersection (1995), and Interaction (2005) were held here. They also have a good relationship with the City, City Council and fans in the local area. Satellite, the Scottish 'natcon' is held in the Crowne Plaza hotel, which adjoins the convention centre.

Since our last Worldcon, the SEC have updated their 3000 seat auditorium (The Armadillo) with better acoustics and seating. There are now six hotels on site with 1000 rooms, and two more are being built - to a total of 1700 rooms on site by 2024. The new adjoining events arena (The Hydro) has further conference rooms and breakout spaces which could be used for parties / launches, or for overflow programme spaces, as does the Scottish Science Centre, which is 150m away across the river. The SEC recently announced a £200 million development plan, which will be carried out prior to 2024.

### Travel

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

	£
Boston	£399 (1stop)
Chicago	£457 (1 stop)

Los Angeles	£446 (1 stop)
New York	£433 (1 stop)
Dublin	£36
London	£74
Helsinki	£165
Wellington	£879 (2 stops)

- **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?**

Glasgow is an international airport with numerous connections to both east and westbound flights. There are also frequent flights to Dublin (which offers preclearance for travellers to the US), London Heathrow and Amsterdam Schipol. There are plans for preclearance at Glasgow airport.

A direct destination map can be seen [here](#), with destinations including:

New York, Orlando

Toronto, Halifax

Iceland

London Heathrow, London Gatwick, Birmingham, Manchester, Belfast

Dublin, Paris, Amsterdam, Madrid, Dusseldorf

Dubai

- **Are there other major transportation options to reach your city such as ship or train?**

Glasgow is well served by trains both locally and nationally - here are some approx. travel times:

London - 4.5 hours (or go overnight on the Caledonian Sleeper)

Edinburgh - 45 mins - 1 hour

Manchester - 3 hours  
Birmingham - 3.5 hours  
Stafford - 3.5 hours

Roads and Motorways do indeed reach Glasgow. Here's a map:

<https://tinyurl.com/wnu5yah>

The M74 will take you to England - 3 hours to the border  
The M8 goes to Edinburgh - 1.5 hours

- **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?**

**Dedicated train station:** Exhibition Centre Station

**Nearest International Airport:** Glasgow International (approx 15 - 20 mins drive, traffic dependent)

**Nearest Main Station:** Glasgow Central (direct trains to London, Manchester, Edinburgh, Stafford).

**Taxi From Airport** £15

**Taxi From Glasgow Central Station** £6

## Facilities

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

**SEC, Glasgow**

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

Glasgow will have 8 hotels on site by 2024 and we will negotiate with these, should we win. We have already discussed room allocations in the [Crowne Plaza](#), which is attached to the convention centre.

Hotels on site include:

[Campanile Hotel](#)

[Crowne Plaza](#)

[Hilton Garden Inn](#)

[Premier Inn SEC, Pacific Quay](#)

[Radisson Red](#)

[Village Hotel](#)

## **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. We have already agreed that this will be our party hotel, as well as hosting the fan bar.

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 6 on site hotels to fit a range of prices with the furthest 400m away from the SEC entrance, and 2 more being built.

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.

[mic\\_book\\_look\\_from\\_artist\\_Frank\\_Quitely/http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15829427.Glasgow\\_s\\_newest\\_hotel\\_gets\\_unique\\_co](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15829427.Glasgow_s_newest_hotel_gets_unique_co)

Several of the hotels on the Campus have party spaces or food/bar areas that can be booked out (the Campile has conference style rooms which have been used by fan groups before).

- **What are your hotel rates?**

Rates will be negotiated closer to the event, if the bid is successful.

- **Do hotel rates include breakfast?**

Usually this is standard in the UK, although this is beginning to change. There is now often a charge, payable on booking, for breakfasts. This is usually between £10-15 per day. Breakfasts in Scotland are usually buffet style, with no limits.

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

This is standard in the UK.

- **Do any of the hotels have shuttles to/from the airport, train station, or port?**

Shuttle services to hotels are not common in the UK but the local transport and buses are robust, with a busstop and taxi rank outside the SEC.

Details of the buses to the SEC from the bus station and airport can be found here <https://www.sec.co.uk/visitor-information/how-to-get-here/plane>

A taxi from the airport currently costs approx. £15.

A taxi from the main railway station costs £6.

Uber and various rideshares are available throughout the city.

Local taxi drivers are often very friendly! There's a great depiction of a taxi driver in Alyssa Cole's 'Reluctant Royals' series which isn't far off the mark (although according to the audionbook, it's set in 'Edin-bo-ro', and we aren't quite sure where that is!!)

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

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

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

Scooter and wheelchair rental are available from the venue. The train stop is wheelchair accessible, with most stops along the route having an elevator available between platforms and the entrance / exit if required. The SEC's redevelopment plan includes plans to improve access to the train station. Buses have hydraulic

doors that raise and lower for wheelchair users. Pavements around the SEC have slanted or low lips.

**What provision do you have for assessing access and disability at your venue?**

- We have advisors on our team from previous Worldcon access teams who are aware of the specific requirements of our members and will liaise with the various facilities in order to ensure needs are met.
- We will 'stress test' all hotels with members of the community in order to assess for ourselves their level of accessibility on an ongoing basis (for example this might include, type of walk in shower / bath, step height, visible fire alarms for hearing impaired, grab bars, elevator size)
- We commit to listening and incorporating the needs of anyone with accessible requirements, as well as encouraging members with specific access needs to become part of our volunteer team.

**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 the specific layout of halls yet. Halls 3-5 are 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.

Since the last Worldcon, the SEC have developed their space to include more rooms suitable for programme spaces and breakout areas.

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

SEC: The Armadillo (3000 seats). The Armadillo has recently upgraded its sound and interior technology, and is - this will be ready for 2024.

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

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

## **Glasgow**

There are various chains and eateries on site, including a restaurant and a bar. [The Cyldebuilt Bar](#) is a new bar inside the SEC which also serves food. [La Rotunda](#) is a bar, restaurant and comedy club, 200m from the entrance to the SEC. There are restaurants in each hotel. There is a mini supermarket inside the SEC which sells snacks and sandwiches, and 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. The bid team are valiantly adding to the recommendations list upon every site visit...

To the North of the venue is the Finnieston area, which has a thriving coffee and cafe scene, as well as several friendly pubs. Extending along the Byres Road are a huge selection of pubs, cafes and restaurants.

Here are some of our favourites from across the city:

[The Ubiquitous Chip](#). Hands down the best place for neeps, tatties (mashed turnips and potatoes) and haggis in town. Excellent bar food and more a expensive but equally good restaurant. Requires bookin in advance.

[Hanoi Bike Shop](#). Incredible Vietnamese Street Food. Ask for the buffet and you will get 8-10 dishes from the daily menu which are all delicious. Always busy, but go for a pint across the road first in...

[Curlers Rest](#). Great local pub, comfortable seating and friendly staff. Guest ales and beers, not too noisy. The food is also good. The universities' fantasy and science fiction group meets here.

[Bread Meats Bread](#). This burger den is at the heart of the burger district - an area around the central station specialising in... burgers. This one stands out from the crowd

(there are several upmarket burger chains here. BMB has won multiple local burger awards.

[The Society Rooms](#). We do not particularly recommend the food or the drink, because this is a Weatherspoons! But we do recommend the company, as this is where the monthly Scottish fan meet-up; 'Resurgence of Trout', is held. (If you want to know why it's called that, ask a local!).

[The Yarn Cake](#). Do you love Cake? Do you love Yarn? Do you love both at once?!!! The Yarn Cake serves a series of delicious yarns for all budgets and scrumptious cakes for every size of tummy to go with them. Great company, knitting and scram!!

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

#### **Hotels**

Crowne Plaza - no smoking.

#### **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?**

Average temp 15 degrees.

Glasgow can be a wee bit nippy 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.

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

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

If you require a super duper up to date app about weather, We also recommend Dark Sky, especially as Glasgow's weather can be quite changeable:

<https://darksky.net/app>

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

Although Scotland does not have a culture of room parties or suites, we will be using rooms in the Crowne Plaza hotel for both our parties and the fan bar. We have a provisional agreement for corkage and forkage with the hotel, should we win.

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.

- Are there legal restrictions on attendees who are under the legal drinking age? (And what is that drinking age?)
  
- **Are there legal restrictions on attendees who are under the legal drinking age? (And what is that drinking age?)**

**The legal drinking age is 18**

**Here is the statement that the hotel have provided us re. Minors and alcohol / supervision.**

“16 and under are classed as minors.

In our public areas after 10pm children would be required to be supervised by their parent/guardian but prior to this time if there were a small group of teenagers unsupervised this wouldn't be an issue as long as they weren't trying to purchase alcohol.

For any events in our meeting space these are private parties and so again children can be there after 10pm but would need to be supervised”.

Note also that we are anticipating predominantly serving alcohol in the Crowne Plaza area, although it is available in the main SEC building at the SEC's new bar. The “meeting space” referred to in the reply above refers to the fan bar and party rooms.

- **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?**

Our Code of Conduct for the Bid is on our website here:

<https://glasgow2024.org/conduct>

We expect all Bid Team members to abide by this, as well as those of any events that they are attending as representatives of Glasgow in 2024.

This policy will guide us towards the CoC that we will use if we should become a seated Worldcon. Our CoC is based on the one used by Dublin 2019, who regularly revised their CoC as their bid moved from bid to con, and to reflect changes in fandom, legal requirements and the law. We will be doing the same in order to produce a robust policy.

**What are your plans to include diverse representation both amongst your membership and on programme / events at the convention?**

This is an extremely important aspect of the convention to us. If we win, we aim to encourage a similar series of initiatives to encouraging new fans and attendees to that of recent Worldcons and large conventions, as well as celebrating the voices that may be under-represented.

Initiatives that inspire us include:

The First Worldcon rate - a reduced rate for first time attendees - irrespective of age.

The Mexicanx Initiative - a targeted drive to encourage Mexicanx SFF creatives to attend Worldcon and provide membership / funding.

The Fantastic Dublin Fun (FDF) - a targeted drive that encouraged local and out-of-community members to buy memberships on a 'pay what you can' basis.

Traveller and Pavee Point Outreach - paid memberships for local minority communities who have traditionally experienced stigma.

UNESCO and Governmental / other funding for Fringe Outreach - we will aim to reach out in a broader sense with a series of Fringe events in the local community. We have

already approached local groups about outreach in low income areas around Glasgow.

- **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 (shamelessly poaching the idea from Helsinki and Dublin).

- **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 its 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, including a distillery attached to the SEC.

Since Worldcon has been to Glasgow before, here are some well known, and less well known places to visit.

[Hunterian Museum](#). The Hunterian has held everything from T-Rex's to unprinted pages from Art Spiegelmann's *Maus*, and has strong local ties to Glasgow's comic book and art scene.

[Glasgow Central Railway Station](#) holds regular tours under the station and beyond. Hard hats provided!

[Alastair Gray's mural in Òran Mór](#) is publically available and absolutely stunning.

[The Scottish Ballet](#) is world renowned.

[The Sharmarka Kinetic Theatre](#) is a permanent exhibition of glorious scrap sculptures, set to music, by Eduard Bersudsky.

[The Science Museum](#) is a 500m walk from the SEC / Crowne Plaza. It is full of science!

[The Riverside Museum](#) is a 600m walk from the SEC / Crowne Plaza. It is full of Glasgow History and the Scottish Transport Museum!

But wait, what's this in between the Riverside Museum and the SEC?!! [Drop into the Clydeside Distillery](#) on the way!

There's a [Harry Potter shop](#) by the main station (and they may or may not confirm that Hogwarts in is the Highlands).

... and you can go on tours to see [locations from Outlander](#), [look for Nessy](#) or catch the [Caledonian sleeper to London](#).

The Tunnock's factory is often oversubscribed, but [tours](#) are available if you are lucky! (and if you are not lucky, here's [ten facts about Tunnock's](#) to keep you going)