

- ♦ Ensure the technology implications of government activity are properly considered by introducing Technology Impact Assessments into the policy design process.
- ♦ Develop cutting-edge digital skills courses for young people and the unemployed, working with private sector employers and education and training providers.

2.9 Pride in creativity

Liberal Democrats understand that arts, creative industries and culture are crucial to Britain's success and essential for personal fulfilment and quality of life. The UK's creative sector has been one of the great success stories of the past five years, and a critical driver of our recovery. We are proud of the arts in Britain and will support them properly, working to deliver access for all, regardless of income, ethnicity, gender, age, belief, sexuality or disability. We believe the arts have an essential role in our education system and will work to encourage creativity in our schools and universities.

We will:

- ♦ Maintain free access to national museums and galleries, while giving these institutions greater autonomy.
- ♦ Protect the independence of the BBC while ensuring the Licence Fee does not rise faster than inflation, maintain Channel 4 in public ownership and protect the funding and editorial independence of Welsh language broadcasters.
- ♦ Support growth in the creative industries, including video gaming, by continuing to support the Creative Industries Council, promoting creative skills, supporting modern and flexible patent, copyright and licensing rules, and addressing the barriers to finance faced by small creative businesses.