SMOFCON 2016
FANNISH INQUISITION QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of Bid: UK in 2024

What are the proposed dates for which you are bidding?

 August 2024

What is your proposed convention host city?

The group has begun to consider a number of different venues in the UK, which has already experienced considerable growth since the last UK based Worldcon. We have begun preliminary visits to these venues and have summarized the questions regarding each venue in alphabetical order:

Birmingham NEC have extended their partnership with the adjoining **Birmingham Metropole Hilton Hotel**, the venue for the 2017 Eastercon (Innominate) and the International Discworld Convention in 2008, 2010 and 2012. The site is familiar with the needs of a convention such as Worldcon. There is also an on site food and restaurant complex, which opened in April 2016 and caters to a range of different budgets. There are several other hotels on site. Birmingham International Airport adjoins the NEC and shares a railway link with it.
 Suburb Location
 Dedicated train station: Birmingham International. Birmingham New Street is a national rail hub and 15 mins by train.
 Nearest International Airport: on site – Birmingham International.
 Other: Shuttles operate from Airport to hotel complex.

Glasgow SECC have expanded and updated their 3000 seat auditorium, as well as investing in an attached hotel complex, arena and further conference rooms. Glasgow SECC has strong relations with previous Worldcons (1995, 2005) and a city-wide remit to encourage cultural growth.
 Suburb Location
 Dedicated train station: Exhibition Centre Station
 Nearest International Airport: Glasgow International
 Taxi From Airport £15 ($20)

Liverpool ACC have unveiled an arena / auditorium and attached hotel complex at the ACC Liverpool which seats 11 000 (but can be scaled down to purpose), and have considerably enlarged the available space to include more rooms, break out spaces and accessible facilities.
 City Centre Location
 Train Station: Liverpool Lime St.
 Nearest International Airports: Liverpool John Lennon, Manchester Airport
 Taxi from Station: £7 ($9)

Taxi from Airport: (Manchester) £35 ($46)

The ExCel Centre, London, was the site of Loncon 3, the 2014 Worldcon, and has a range of different rooms and areas suitable for a Worldcon. There is an onsite hotel complex 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.
  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 venue.

Other potential venues include Manchester, London and Harrogate.

In addition, the discussion group have also begun to discuss venues that are at present not suitable to host a Worldcon, with the following results:

The Brighton Centre does not have sufficient access requirements, although transport to the city is very good. However, the proposed Waterfront East project may change this. Brighton is a popular tourist venue and a significant percentage of the town's revenue is generated by the hospitality industry. The Brighton Centre hosts large conferences such as annual meetings by each political party, is situated on the seafront and surrounded by hotels.
  Central Location
  Train Station: Brighton Station (10 mins walk)
  Nearest International Airports: London Gatwick (28 mins by rail)
  Taxi from Brighton Station: £5 ($7)
  Taxi from Gatwick Airport: £30 ($40)

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

	Birmingham	Glasgow	London	Manchester

Boston	£312 $413 (1 stop)	£419 $555 (1 stop)	£273 $361	£430 $569 (1 stop)
Chicago	£379 $502 (1 stop)	£526 $696 (1 stop)	£551 $729	£466 $617 (1 stop)
Dallas	£508 $672 (1 stop)	£508 $672 (1 stop)	£571 $756	£469 $621 (1 stop)
Dublin	£20 $26	£28 $37	£34 $45	£20 $26
Helsinki	£176 $233 (1 stop)	£165 $218 (1 stop)	£89 $118	£121 $160
London	£126* $167 (1 stop)	£34 $45	n/a	£91 $120
Los Angeles	£414 $548 (1 stop)	£496 $656	£393 $520	£334 $442
Melbourne	£834 $1103 (1 stop)	£997 $1319 (1 stop)	£651 $862 (1 stop)	£848 $1122 (1 stop)

*or 60 minutes by train.

Hotels:

It is too early to discuss hotels at this point.

What are the policies/laws regarding smoking:

Smoking in restaurants and most recreational places, including convention centers, is illegal in the UK. Hotels will sometimes offer rooms for smoking, otherwise it must take place in designated areas or outside.

What type of weather can we expect at the time of year your convention is to

be held?

The UK average is 19˚C/66˚F. There is a 50% chance of rain, and a 17% chance of clouds. Average rainfall is 48mm. This is the same in Scotland.

Who is on your committee?

The UK in 2024 team have formed a discussion group online to engage with conrunners and develop ideas over this early period. This group was initially formed by Emma England, Esther MacCallum-Stewart and Vanessa May.

We have also consulted with former Worldcon Chairs and Division Heads about our plans, all of whom have offered to advise us (we accept!) and are members of the discussion group.

At present the group has the support of 5 previous Worldcon Chairs and 2 Bid Chairs.

We intend to develop our plans at the forthcoming Conrunner convention in February in the UK, where we will be holding a workshop and discussion group about future plans to develop the Bid.

At Conrunner we will also form a working party to visit our core venues for a second time and to begin the discussion process of venue choice.

Do you currently have a code of conduct in place for your bid/convention?

We intend to follow the good practice set by previous Worldcons by forming a Bid Code of Conduct which our team must abide by. A similar CoC is available on the Dublin 2019 page here.