

News story: Tinsel, trees and tax – 2017 in British film and TV

Most people will be watching the Queen in some capacity this Christmas.

The traditional amongst us will tune in dutifully at 3pm to Her Majesty's Christmas message, full of turkey and fit to burst.

But thanks to tax reliefs in the creative sector, we can also enjoy Claire Foy's seminal performance as a young Elizabeth Windsor in the award-winning Netflix series, *The Crown*.

Tax probably isn't the first thing that springs to mind over the festive period. But when you're settling down after lunch to binge on this:

Or this:

Or even this:

It's all been made possible thanks to a government scheme, which makes it cheaper to make a TV show or film that is culturally British (or European).

Whether you're addicted to Shelby shenanigans or doctors and daleks, productions such as *Peaky Blinders* and *Dr Who* all benefit from government tax relief because they're culturally British in some way – either through their content (hello 1920s, gangster-infested Birmingham), or because of how much of it is shot in this country.

It also includes the proportion of stars and crew who are from Britain.

We're looking at you, McGregor:

And you to, Styles:

Tax and TV shows aside, pleasing everyone can be impossible, especially during the festive season, and especially after a few sherries.

But a firm favourite for the whole family has to be this year's *Paddington 2* – a perfect production for adults and children alike... and presumably with royal endorsement, after the famous bear danced a merry jig with the Duchess of Cambridge earlier this year.

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So gather round the tree, don a paper hat, and raise a glass to the best of British cinema.