Dear Abigail and the Children’s Laureate Steering Committee

**The Children’s Laureate and The UK City of Culture**

I would like to invite you to join us for a remarkable year in 2017.

Hull is hosting UK City of Culture in 2017 and will be the stage for many of the country’s major cultural events, such as The Turner Prize. The year will consist of 365 days of high profile, transformative culture that will appeal to the whole nation.

Following on from the Olympics and Paralympics, Commonwealth Games and the Tour de France in Yorkshire, Hull 2017 is next in the nation’s calendar. On the day they became one of our Principal Partners, the Director-General of the BBC, Tony Hall said: “The BBC is going to be unashamedly ‘Hull-centric’ in 2017. We are really looking forward to working with the city to create something very special for audiences across the UK and around the world.”

Literature is crucial within the 2017 programme with several significant literary events and festivals already in the diary. I firmly believe that the announcement of the new Children’s Laureate in Hull is pivotal to the integrity of the literature programme next year.

I understand you have had an initial discussion with Hull’s Director of Library Services about the possibility of holding the 2017 Children’s Laureate announcement event in Hull. I wonder if I may be given the opportunity to persuade you and the Steering Committee to consider the proposal further? I can offer the unequivocal support of the Hull 2017 team to ensure the change of venue to Hull, both logistically and in terms of media and promotion, is advantageous to you.

The 2017 Children’s Laureate announcement event at the UK City of Culture will send a clear message on the important role children’s literature plays in the nation’s cultural heritage and in inspiring future cultural consumers.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this wonderful opportunity with you in more detail.

Yours faithfully….