

Many film and TV productions use real locations for their film and TV productions simply because, short term, it is cheaper and often real homes look more authentic on screen.

NFM offer a free location finding service to location managers and production companies considering filming on location. We are often asked for specific locations which we either find through our database or through local contacts. Our database ensures that we can respond quickly to the enquiries we receive and hopefully encourage the production company to shoot in the North East.

Properties can be registered with us as a potential film location, free of charge. We are asked for a variety of locations and the property could be anything from a modest home, providing the rooms are quite large, a grand mansion, an office or factory or even a landscape! Sometimes private properties are the most difficult to find.

When a production company films on location it normally pays the property owner a facility fee. This fee is dependent on the type of property you have, how disruptive filming will be and how long the production company need your property. If your house is exceptionally unusual you can expect a higher fee. The production company will deal directly with you to negotiate this fee although we can offer help and guidance. The fee is also dependent on the type of production and its budget. Generally short films, online content and documentaries have low budgets whilst commercials, dramas and features have more money to spend on locations.

There are several things to take into account when allowing your home to be used as a location. The filming will be disruptive and it's best to try and get an accurate idea of just how disruptive before you sign any contracts, or agree to any fees. A film crew can consist of anything from a couple of people with a camera up to 100 people with equipment, actors/extras, catering vans etc.

You will need to work out exactly how much disruption there is going to be and whether you feel that the fee compensates you for this. It's often best to wait until the production company have decided exactly what they want to do and how long it's going to take before negotiating with them. Go round your property with the location manager and ensure that you are both very clear about which areas will be used, what for, and how long they will be required. You may want to check exactly what the storyline is and where your property fits into this.

Once you've come to an agreement with them don't be afraid to ask for more money should they ask for anything extra. You may wish to ask for a deposit if the cancelling of any filming will cause you difficulties. The production company will ask you to sign a contract with them and this should be carefully considered before signing. Ensure that they will insure your home for filming and return it to its original state after filming. You should also notify your own insurance company.

During filming it is important to ensure that you, or someone you trust is with the production company at all times should there be any problems. Whilst Northern Film & Media are available throughout to give help and guidance, the agreement is between you and the production company and Northern Film & Media can not be responsible for any agreement made.

Obviously we cannot guarantee that your property will be used for filming. There are many properties on our database which have yet to be used, but registering with us increases the chances. We never know what we will be asked for next so details of a wide range of properties is vital.

Registering on our database does not give film makers the right to use your property. You make the decision about whether filming can take place. Once a film company is interested in a property we contact you to discuss the possibility of filming. Please be assured that any information you supply will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Occasionally location managers visit a region and may contact people directly. If this happens, let us know and we can check out their details and deal with the initial enquiry on your behalf.

There is no registration fee. You can register as many locations as you wish at **[www.northernmedialocations.org/production-service](http://www.northernmedialocations.org/production-service)**.

To increase exposure of north east locations we are working in partnership with Creative England to create an England wide location database. To this end we will also add your property to the Creative England database. <http://www.creativeengland.co.uk>

Any record that we add still remains the responsibility of Northern Film & Media. There will be no contact information passed on and Creative England will not be able to edit any of the details. They will appear on their site anonymously in the same way it appears on our site.

When a production are interested in one of our locations which they see on the Creative England database they will be referred to us and we will continue to represent our regional locations in the first instance.

You can upload digital images to the database but please also send them to us by email or on a cd. The more photos you send us the better we know your property. Don't worry about taking expert photos, snaps of exactly what you can see are the most useful. Try and show how one room leads into another as well. We do get asked for both interiors and exteriors so please include anywhere that you would be happy to allow filming providing the rooms are not small.

It's as simple as that!

We are here throughout the process to answer any questions and to give any guidance we can to ensure filming is a good experience for all concerned.

If you have further questions, please contact us at the address listed below.

Northern Film & Media  
C/o BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art  
South Shore Road  
Gateshead  
NE8 3BA

Tel: 0191 440 4940

Email: [gayle@northernmedia.org](mailto:gayle@northernmedia.org)

Web: <http://www.northernmedia.org/production-service>