



Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

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Giles Watling MP, Chair, APPG Theatre
Julian Bird, Chief Executive Officer, UK Theatre and Society
of London Theatre
Baroness Hooper, Co-Chair, APPG Dance
Andrew Hurst, Chief Executive, One Dance UK
Barbara Keeley MP, Co-Chair, APPG Classical Music
Lord Berkeley of Knighton, Co-Chair, APPG Classical Music
Mark Pemberton, Director, Association of British Orchestras
Dame Diana Johnson MP, Chair, APPG Music Education
Lord Black of Brentwood, Co-Chair, APPG Music Education
Deborah Annetts, Chief Executive, Incorporated Society of
Musicians
Sir Bob Neill MP, Chair, APPG Opera
David Warburton MP, Chair, APPG Music
Jamie Njoku-Goodwin, Chief Executive, UK Music

Dear all,

Thank you for your correspondence of 28 January, regarding concerns the impact the Trade and Cooperation Agreement will have for performing arts across the UK. I am replying as the minister responsible for this policy area. Please accept my apologies for the delay in this response reaching you.

This government recognises the importance of the UK's cultural industries and we are determined to support them. In negotiations with the EU we fought for a good deal for these sectors, and I deeply regret that the EU rejected our proposals. Touring is a vital part of musicians and performers' careers, providing not only a vital income stream, but also enriching opportunities for cultural exchange across the world. We understand the concerns about the new arrangements and we are committed to supporting the sectors as they get to grips with the changes to systems and processes. I would like to address some of those issues you have raised in your letter.

Visas/Work Permits

Musicians and performers can continue to work and tour in the EU. However, while some activities undertaken by creative professionals will be covered by the Short Term Business Visits clause of the agreement (including attending meetings or trade shows) and will therefore not require a work permit, other activities will not be covered and could therefore require visas or work permits. UK cultural professionals seeking to tour within the EU will be required to check domestic immigration rules for each Member State in which they intend to tour. Although some Member States allow touring without a permit, others will require a visa, work permit or other documentation.

We are fully committed to continuing our close dialogue with the creative industries sectors to make the new processes as straightforward as possible for UK artists performing across the continent. We have published guidance on GOV.UK, including updated [travel advice](#) for travelling to the EU, and we are engaging regularly with our embassies to support UK nationals abroad. Travellers should check what requirements they need to fulfil with the EU Member State they are travelling to, including to understand any local variations in the rules on paid work. Our agreement with the EU contains Transparency and Procedural Facilitation measures that will help ensure visa processes are as prompt and smooth as possible. It is also important to note that the UK's rules for touring creative professionals are significantly



more generous than in many EU Member States, and it is within Member States' gift to make touring easier. We encourage them to do so.

Cabotage

The government recognises the leading position of the UK concert hauliers sector and its importance for the UK music sector. The UK pressed for a special derogation from the cabotage restrictions for hauliers carrying equipment for the purpose of concert tours and similar activities, but this was rejected by the EU.

Under the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA), UK operators will be able to undertake up to two additional movements within the EU, with a maximum of 1 cabotage movement. We understand the impact these new arrangements will have on concert hauliers when seeking to tour in the EU. This issue is being looked at as part of the DCMS-led working group, which involves sector representatives and other key government departments, including the Department for Transport.

Movement of Goods

Portable musical instruments do not require a formal declaration or a carnet when moving from the UK to the EU, and vice versa. As such, they can be transported with a simple and cost free oral or conduct declaration. Non-portable musical instruments, for example if carried by freight, may require a declaration.

Similarly, a carnet is not required for a musician to carry their instrument between Great Britain and Northern Ireland. If not accompanied (carried as freight) then customs formalities (through a declaration or use of a carnet) will be required on entry into Northern Ireland. As a further option HMRC are also looking to develop in conjunction with the London Chambers of Commerce a bespoke NI/GB carnet.

In some cases, musical instruments or props containing protected materials, such as ivory, must be accompanied by a CITES certificate. This government recognises concerns about the impact of these requirements and is working with the sector to provide clarity over these changes, including through the DCMS-led working group.

Social Security

I appreciate the concern from the sector that there was a risk that organisations would have to duplicate social security payments in the absence of an agreement on social security coordination. However, the Protocol on Social Security Coordination secured in the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) ensures UK nationals and EU citizens have a range of social security cover when working and living in the EU and the UK.

We have received formal confirmation from the Commission that all 27 Member States have signed up to the 'detached worker' provision, preventing the duplication of social security payments for cross-border workers. This means that workers moving temporarily between the UK and the EU will continue to pay social security contributions in their home state, and receive necessary healthcare treatment in the country where workers are temporarily posted.

Funding

The government has provided an unprecedented £1.57 billion support package for the culture sector, of which over £1 billion has now been allocated to over 3,000 arts and culture organisations across the country. This funding is supporting the arts and culture sector to survive the pandemic and continue operating. £400 million was held back as a contingency to support cultural organisations facing financial distress as a result of closure, as well as helping them transition back to fuller opening in the Spring.

The Chancellor also announced in the 2021 Budget an additional £300 million to support theatres, museums and other cultural organisations in England through the Culture Recovery Fund (CRF). This extra funding, together with other cultural support such as funding for our national museums, means that our total support package for culture during the pandemic is now approaching £2 billion. These are unprecedented sums. The £300 million additional funding for the CRF will continue to support key cultural organisations; bridge the sector as audiences begin to return; and continue to ensure a vibrant future for the culture sector as the nation recovers from the pandemic.



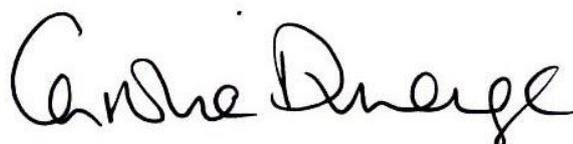
The idea of an Export Office is an interesting one, and we are working closely with DIT, the Devolved Administrations and particularly sector representatives, to explore this proposal further.

Engagement with the sector

Thank you for sharing the concerns you have raised above. We are fully committed to continuing our close dialogue with the creative industries sectors, including through the DCMS-led working group, and are keen that we consider all available options to ensure we can provide individuals and businesses with access to the right support, so that touring in Europe can resume with ease as soon as it is safe to do so. I am also committed to hearing the views of MPs and their constituents, and have recently held a Ministerial roundtable on 16 March and we look forward to continuing this dialogue on this very important matter.

I hope you all find this information useful.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Caroline Dinenage". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Caroline Dinenage MP
Minister of State for Digital and Culture