



Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Tel 020 7219 6188 website www.parliament.uk/cms

Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

By email

6 January 2021

Dear Chancellor,

Festivals, live performance and live music are the lifeblood of the UK entertainment industry, providing a huge contribution to our cultural landscape and our economy. In 2019 alone, the gross value added to the economy by festivals was £1.76 billion, and almost 1 in 3 Britons watched Glastonbury on TV. Live music is also a major reason why people visit the UK's nations and regions: in 2019 music tourists spent £460 million across the Midlands alone and sustained more than 45,000 jobs nationwide.

Planning for this year's festivals, live performances and events is taking place now, and while the vaccine rollout is cause for optimism, organisers need confidence that this work and investment will not go to waste. Central to that confidence is insurance.

Without insurance, the events we know and love simply won't take place this year—vaccine or no vaccine. Sustaining losses like those we've seen in 2020 for another year isn't an option, and hundreds of businesses in the events supply chain have already been forced to fold. The Government has backed insurance for the film and television industry to the tune of £500 million. It's now time to do this for other creative industries.

There are a number of forms this could take. One of these requires no upfront contribution from the Government and utilises the existing Pool Re structure, developed in response to unpredictable and devastating acts of terrorism. This would leave Treasury with a maximum liability of £1.5 billion and could be adapted to cover a range of sectors – including hospitality, sports, and leisure, as well as festivals, live performances and events.

What's clear is that insurance is of the utmost importance when it comes to getting our economy going again across the whole of the UK. Whatever form it

takes, businesses need to be able to access reliable insurance schemes to get back on track. Government underwriting is the only way this will be possible.

We call on you to act now and back the UK's renowned events, music, festivals, hospitality and theatres, to name but a few, so that livelihoods are saved and people have something to look forward to in summer 2021 and beyond.

Yours sincerely,



Julian Knight MP, Chair of the DCMS Committee

**Heather Wheeler MP
Giles Watling MP
Steve Brine MP
Rt Hon Damian Green MP
John Nicolson MP
Clive Efford MP
Kevin Brennan MP
Julie Elliott MP**

**Association of Event Venues
Association of Events Organisers
Event Supplier and Services Association
LIVE (Live music Industry, Venues & Entertainment)
The Entertainment Agents' Association
Association for Electronic Music
Association of Festival Organisers
Association of Independent Festivals
Concert Promoters Association
International Live Music Conference
National Arenas Association
Production Services Association
Music Venue Trust
British Association of Concert Halls
Association of Independent Promoters
Music Managers Forum
Featured Artists Coalition
One Industry One Voice
Professional Lighting and Sound Association
Night Time Industries Association
The Events Industry Forum
Event & Visual Communication Association
Live Comedy Association**

HBAA
Let Live Thrive
#WeMakeEvents
UK Music
Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society
Society of Ticket Agents and Retailers
DF Concerts & Events
Portsmouth Guildhall
Senbla Ltd
Music Publishers Association
Musicians Union
The Ivors Academy
PRS for Music
Association for Independent Music
BPI
PPL
Music Producers Guild
The Flying Music Company Ltd
Flying Entertainment Ltd
The Flying Music Group Ltd
The Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester

Barbara Keeley MP, Chair of the APPG for Classical Music
Tracy Brabin MP, former Shadow Culture Secretary
David Warburton MP, Chair of the APPG for Music
Harvey Goldsmith CBE
Simon Miller, Director, Yutree Insurance
Sacha Lord, Co-Founder, Warehouse Project and Parklife, Greater Manchester Night Time Economy Adviser
John Penn, Founder and Strategic Adviser, SSE Audio Group
Dave Crump, CEO Europe and Middle East, Creative Technology Group Ltd
Dave Ridgway, Director, NegEarth Ltd
Bryan Raven, Managing Director, White Light Ltd
Neil Hunt, Managing Director, ZigZag Lighting Ltd
Sean Pagel, Director, Production Services Ireland
Tom Grant, Director, Siyan Limited
Paul Stevart, Viking Audio
Rob Ashworth and Pete Robinson, Directors, dbnAudile
Gary Farrow OBE, Founder and CEO, The Corporation
Toby Leighton-Pope, Chief Executive Officer, AEG Presents
Les Kidger, Director, LCC Live Events
Dan Colman, Managing Director, Dan Colman Creative Ltd
Pablo Janczur, Director, Orchard Live
Geoff Crow, Director, 21CC Group Ltd
Barrie Marshall MBE, Chairman, Marshall Arts Ltd
David Jones, Director, Serious and EFG London Jazz Festival

Philippa Childs, Head of Bectu
Conal Dodds, Director, Crosstown Concerts
Justine Simons OBE, London's Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries
Scott Arnold, Managing Director, Autograph Sound Recording Ltd
Mark Bonner, Managing Director, Delta Live Ltd
Bob Angus, Chairman, Metropolis Music
Stella Kanu, Executive Director, LIFT Festival
Bernard Donoghue, Director, Association of Leading Visitor Attractions

cc. Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP, Prime Minister; Rt Hon Oliver Dowden MP,
Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

Advance copy:
Embargoed until 00.01 on Thursday 7 January