

# APP Jazz Appreciation Group



HOUSE OF COMMONS, LONDON, SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Caroline Dinenage MP  
Minister of State for Digital and Culture  
Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport  
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100 Parliament Street  
London  
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5<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Caroline

Your Ref: MC2020/17029

Thank you for your letter of the 24th September 2020. We were disappointed with the reply as it does not address the points that were made in our letter to you on the 11th August.

For ease of reference I reiterate the points below and I attach my original letter.

*II. We would therefore put to you the following observations and recommendations to ensure together we can achieve the best outcome from this initiative, and protect and preserve all we can.*

*III. Ensure that the emergency fund is for (a) all organisations, large and small, and not just for organisations of “international or national cultural significance” and (b) that funds are available for self-employed musicians who are currently falling between the cracks.*

*IV. In terms of transparency provide a safeguard that possible conflicts of interest between the Arts Council and clients from their National Portfolio Organisation and non Arts Council funded organisations are mitigated.*

*V. It would appropriate if the membership of the Culture Recovery Board is broadened with the addition of Independent Board Members with concrete experience of the “volunteer” constituency in the arts such as a volunteer promoter, musician or similar.*

*VI. A “snap” audit of those individuals and organisations who have received funds plus the title of the emergency funding scheme that provided the funds would be helpful. This audit is crucial in order to identify those people and organisations that are falling between the cracks.*

*VII. Find a mechanism to ensure the ministerial task forces are joined up.*

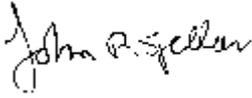
*VIII. With regard to the Government's 'levelling up' agenda and preventing the reversal of decades of progress in cultural provision, diversity and inclusion, it would be sensible if this agenda was reflected in the Entertainments and Events Working Group so that (a) there is a better balance of organisations between London and the regions and (b) the Group is more representative of diverse communities.*

*IX. As part of the Governments “levelling up agenda” there is a reformation of arts funding in England with an organisation that can deliver a rolling, realistic and coherent national plan for the arts, entertainment and culture where under-represented musics and art forms finally get a place in the sun.*

*X. The reduction of VAT to 5% for the performing arts and entertainment is to be welcomed. A retention of this rate in the long term would be of enormous benefit to the arts and entertainment sector.*

We would be grateful for a reply that addresses the points we have raised. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



pp

John Spellar MP (Co Chair) Lord Mann (Co Chair)

Please reply to:

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c/o

Chris Hodgkins

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