



Department for
Digital, Culture,
Media & Sport

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24 September 2020

John Spellar MP
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Our Ref: MC2020/17029/SR

Dear John,

Thank you for your correspondence of 11 August, to the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, the Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP, on behalf of your constituent, Chris Hodgkins, regarding support for All Party Parliamentary Jazz Appreciation Group and the creative industry sector. I am responding as the minister responsible for this policy area.

The government recognises the huge contribution the arts and cultural sector makes, not only to the economy and international reputation of the United Kingdom, but also to the wellbeing and enrichment of its people.

We appreciate that this is an incredibly challenging time and that there are many cultural organisations and professionals who are currently facing difficult and uncertain circumstances. We are very alert to this issue, and are working to find solutions that support this vital sector as the lockdown eases.

It is of vital importance to me and the work of the department that we are able to continue to support and celebrate the work of arts organisations, who are so vital to the cultural life of the nation and the communities they work within. This is why, on 5 July, alongside earlier government support, we announced a major £1.57 billion package for arts organisations across the publicly-funded and non-publicly funded sectors.

These funds will protect cultural assets of international, national and local importance, including supporting the levelling up agenda by preventing the loss of valuable cultural fabric from our towns and regions. The Fund will cover charitable and private organisations of all sizes in the arts, museums, heritage sectors as well as music venues, festivals and independent cinemas.

We recognise the crucial role that individuals play in making our arts and creative industries world-leading. As a result of these grants and loans, organisations will be more able to resume cultural activity, albeit in a socially distanced way, which will increase employment opportunities for freelancers. Each organisation that receives money will know what best they can do to support their workforce, including their freelance workforce.

To complement the funding for organisations made available by Government, ACE have announced £95m of additional support for individuals, including freelancers. This involves:

- An additional £75m in project grants. These will be focused on applications that maximise employment opportunities and those from under-represented groups.



Freelancers are eligible to apply directly. National Portfolio Organisations can also apply to create new work with bids that create employment opportunities prioritised.

- A further round of the ACE programme 'Discover Your Creative Practice' will open in the autumn. This will make approximately £18m available for individuals looking to develop new creative skills that will help them to further develop their career.
- ACE will also be adding £2m into relevant benevolent funds to support those less well supported by the programmes outlined above, including stage managers and technicians.

The Fund will cover charitable and private organisations of all sizes in the arts, museums, heritage sectors as well as music venues and independent cinemas. One of our core objectives for this funding is to support the cultural organisations that are crucial to places across the whole country. We will ensure that funding is distributed fairly, and that smaller organisations and cultural venues that are at the centre of their communities are protected.

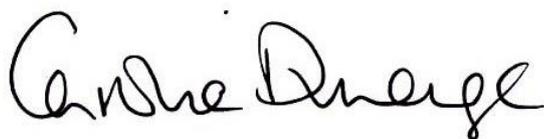
As of 14 September non-professional performing arts activity, including choirs, orchestras or drama groups, can continue to rehearse or perform together where this is planned activity, in line with the [performing arts guidance](#) and if they can do so in a way, that ensures that there is no interaction between groups of more than six at any time. If an amateur group is not able to ensure that no mingling takes place, between these sub-groups of no more than six (including when arriving at or leaving activity or in any breaks or socialising) then such non-professional activity should not take place.

The guidance, which can be found [here](#), follows the government's five-stage roadmap outlining how we will get audiences back into performing arts venues. From 11 July we can all enjoy performances outdoors with social distancing. From 15 August, we are at Stage Four of this roadmap meaning that indoor theatres, music and performance venues will be able to reopen with socially distanced audiences under updated performing arts guidance published by the government.

This guidance applies to those who engage in activities in the performing arts including but not limited to performers (actors, singers, dancers, musicians, other performers), coaches, support workers, choreographers, costume designers, set builders, accompanists, directors, stage managers and other creative, technical and operational production team members; and to the premises and venues in which performing arts activities take place. It applies to training, rehearsal and pre-production activities, and performances which take place with or without a live audience, wherever these activities occur. It provides advice on all aspects of performance, from casting, sound and lighting, costume and fitting, to cloakrooms, orchestra pits, hair and make-up.

I hope your constituents and yourself find this information useful.

With best wishes,



Caroline Dinenage MP
Minister of State for Digital and Culture



