

# APP Jazz Appreciation Group



HOUSE OF COMMONS, LONDON, SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Gavin Williamson MP  
Secretary of State  
Department for Education  
Sanctuary Buildings  
Great Smith Street  
London  
SW1P 3BT

6<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear Secretary of State Gavin Williamson,

We are writing on behalf of the All Party Parliamentary Jazz Appreciation Group and we are seriously concerned about your decision to cut funding for music and arts courses at the Higher Education (HE) level in England by 50 percent.

The arts are of crucial importance to the nation for a number of reasons:

- UK Music publishes an annual report on the economic contribution of the live music sector. Its 2020 Music by Numbers (PDF) report produced by consultancy firm Oxford Economics stated that the total UK music industry (including live music, music recording and music retail) contributed £5.8 billion in Gross Value Added (GVA) to the UK economy in 2019 and directly sustained 197,168 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs. The live music sub-sector contributed £1.3 billion and supported 34,000 jobs. These figures do not include indirect or induced impacts.
- The Arts Council England published a report in 2020 on the economic value of the arts and culture sector produced by the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR). The report includes an analysis of multiplier impacts of arts and culture to the economy.<sup>22</sup> It reported that for every £1 of GVA and 1 job generated by the arts and culture industry, an additional £1.17 of GVA and 1.46 FTE jobs are generated in the wider economy through indirect and induced multipliers (spending in supply chains and wider consumer spending).
- There is the threat to the UK's ability to exercise "soft power" In October 2013 Professor Nye gave oral evidence to the House of Lords 'Soft Power and the UK's Influence Committee 'in which he defined: "soft power is the ability to get what you want through attraction and persuasion." In his evidence Professor Nye put Britain at the top of the list in terms of nations endowed with soft power resources such as the BBC and the World Service and Britain's Universities.

According to the Musicians' Union, the proposed 50% cut will have a catastrophic impact on music and the arts in the UK:

- It risks the financial viability of essential training that will produce the next generation of musicians and arts professionals.
- It could cause utter chaos as courses are withdrawn at the last minute, leaving students who have applied and been accepted onto courses starting in the autumn without the future they are currently working towards.
- It will affect all students, but particularly those from less privileged backgrounds who may rely on being able to access courses locally or through institutions that cannot divert funds from elsewhere to save their music and arts programmes at short notice.
- It pulls the rug out from under our creative industries, which are worth £102bn to the UK economy, and music, which is worth £5.8bn and supported close to 200,000 jobs in 2019.
- The UK's world-leading status in music and the arts is placed in serious jeopardy by these cuts.
- The Musicians' Union has also raised questions about the legitimacy of the public consultation on the proposed funding cuts. I object to such an important consultation being undertaken without fair

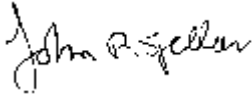
notice given to students, lecturers, universities, employers, creative sector organisations, heritage sector organisations, and trade unions.

As Secretary of State for Education, we ask you to:

Stop these proposed funding cuts immediately, at least until a legitimate consultation can take place and we would be grateful if you could provide a detailed response to the concerns in this email.

We look forward to hearing from you

Yours sincerely



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

Please reply to:

John Spellar MP

c/o

Chris Hodgkins

Secretariat

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