

# APP Jazz Appreciation Group



HOUSE OF COMMONS, LONDON, SW1A 0AA

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Dear Ms Dandridge

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

The proposed cut will have a deleterious effect on the arts that 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.

Are concerns are as follows:

- The consultation only includes one question on the proposed 50% funding cut to music and arts courses. A 50% funding cut is a significant and damaging change with huge repercussions for higher education institutions, students, and the creative industries. It should have been given its own consultation, not wrapped into a broad and general funding consultation.
- The consultation includes questions on many different issues. This means that each response could generate a lot of information that is not relevant to music and the arts, potentially causing confusion and watering down the serious concerns that respondents may wish to express.
- The consultation has been poorly publicised. It opened on 26 March but the organisations in the music sector such as the Musicians' Union, which represents over 30,000 musicians, were only made aware of it in late April. Universities and other sector organisations were also unaware of the

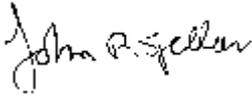
consultation until recently. We object to such an important consultation being undertaken without fair notice given to students, lecturers, universities, employers, creative sector organisations, heritage sector organisations, and trade unions.

Taken together, these give the impression that the Government and the Office for Students do not want stakeholders' views or care about the creative industries, which are worth £102bn to the UK economy.

It would be helpful to put on hold 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:

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c/o

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