



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA
Sent by email

8 February 2021

cc: Rt Hon Oliver Dowden MP, Secretary of State
for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

Dear Prime Minister

Time for Europe-wide Visa-free work permits for UK Touring Professionals and Artists

Today we gathered in support of Tim Brennan's petition to call on the UK Government to act. It is clearly time for clarity and to negotiate and secure a free cultural work permit that gives visa free travel throughout the 27 EU states for music touring professionals, bands, musicians, artists, TV and sports celebrities.

Touring professionals now face the problem of having to navigate the differing requirements of 27 Sovereign EU states. To get working permits for crews (including dancers & performers, techs, video, sound and lighting crew, the riggers, special effects, set carpenters, & automation, wardrobe, makeup and hair, the production team, catering, the drivers, and anyone else working behind the scenes) for each country they visit is a huge barrier and cost.

We would like to see the creation of reciprocal arrangements for specified work between the EU and the UK, which could in theory be established through a similar system to ETIAS which the EU will bring into place on the 1st of January next year.

As you know, musicians will be required to fill out a carnet that will come at "a significant cost" to touring professionals. We would like the Government to ensure that complicated and costly Carnets will not be required for portable musical instruments and also provide grant support for the additional costs of Carnets that may be incurred by bands and groups of musicians and touring professionals travelling together.

We are concerned that without an exemption, only one international movement and two further stops will be permitted before a UK truck must return home. Without multiple truck stops, there can be no European tours and the UK concert haulage industry will face collapse. We believe the Government should seek an EU-wide easement for UK registered concert haulage trucks so that they may continue to make multiple stops across Europe. We also urge your careful consideration of the benefits of a properly funded UK Music Export Office to help in the short-term of this crisis.

Our simple ask to Government is for clarity, not more uncertainty for this industry.

Please can we have your assurances that you will move forward quickly to re-negotiate a deal for this vital UK industry which gives so much to the economy and public wellbeing.

In view of the huge support for Tim's Petition from Parliamentarians from all political parties, celebrities, artists, trade bodies and the public, I am sure you will agree that we need to do everything we can to support the future of touring.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss Tim's petition in person and look forward to receiving your urgent response.

Yours sincerely

Julie Elliott MP for Sunderland Central

Hilary Benn MP for Leeds Central

Jamie Stone MP for Caithness, Sutherland, and Easter Ross

Jeff Smith MP for Manchester Withington

Tracy Brabin MP for Batley & Spen

Earl of Clancarty

Lord Alastair Aberdare

Lord Berkeley of Knighton CBE

Lord Michael Cashman

Lord Clement-Jones CBE

Lord Foster of Bath

Lord Michael German

Lord Paul Strasburger

Tim Brennan, Freelance Video Technician, Petition Creator

Ian Smith, UKE Arts Work & Frusion & Fizzion international music & allied arts agencies

Gill Morris, Campaign Coordinator, Carry on Touring

Derek Dick aka Fish, Singer, Record Company Owner, Touring Artist

Eliza Carty MBE, Folk Singer

Horace Trubridge, General Secretary, Musicians' Union

Howard Goodall Composer, Broadcaster, Conductor, Author

Jess Murphy, Freelance Violinist & Founder of Let Music Live

Louise Richards, Founder and Executive Director, Motionhouse

Sacha Lord, Night-Time Economy Adviser for Greater Manchester

Tom Kiehl, Deputy CEO, UK Music

Rick Astley, singer-songwriter

Rob Brydon, Band, BBC Actor and Theatre Producer

Nile Rodgers, Guitarist, singer-songwriter

Aaron Cassidy, Director, Centre for Research in New Music, University of Huddersfield & freelance composer & conductor

Adam Flanders, BECTU Northwest Regional Officer

Adam La Femina, Self Employed Lighting Technician

Adrian Gooch, Freelance Technical Production Manager
Aine McElwee, Live Events Project Manager, Clearcut Projects Ltd.
Aisling O'Dea, Violinist
Alanna Macfarlane, Freelance Bassoonist
Alex Peters, Freelance Lighting Technician
Ali Staton, Freelance Playback Tech/Sound Engineer
Alice Purton, Freelance cellist, Distractfold and Plus Minus Ensembles
Alison Holford, Cellist
Alison Kay, Freelance violist
Amy Belfield, Programme Manager, Motionhouse
Amy Thomas, Viola player
Andrew Walton, Record producer, K&A Productions
Andy Blackburn, Freelance gfx designer/op
Andy Clarke, Freelance Production Manager
Andy McCluskey, Musician OMD
Andy Peat, Production Manager
Andy Scott, Ops Manager, Lite Alternative Ltd.
Anna Giddey, Freelance violinist
Annabella Coldrick, Chief Executive, Music Managers Forum
Antonia Azoitei, Freelance violinist
Barnaby Philpott, Freelance Trombonist
Ben Coxon- Freelance Lighting Technician
Ben Mason, Freelance touring vision engineer.
Ben Williams, Commercial Director, The ACC Liverpool Group
Bernardo Alejandro Garcia Garcia, Freelance Sound engineer
Betty White, Retired Pianist
Bill Ryder-Jones, Artist
Billy Bryson, Audio System Engineer - Adlib Audio Ltd.
Brian Bennington, Continental Lasers (UK) Ltd
Calie Hough, Freelance percussionist
Callum Vernon, Freelance Touring Sound Engineer
Calum Hartwell, freelance trumpet player and musical director
Carina Drury, freelance cellist
Caroline Dearnley, Principal Cello, Britten Sinfonia
Cath Hurley, Artist manager (Mostdeffo) / Lecturer at LIPA / FUTURE YARD CIC
Cathal Ó Dúill, Director of Graffiti Classics the Comedy String Quartet
Catherine Martin, Leader, Gabrieli Consort and Players, freelance violinist
Charles Beddow, Sound Engineer
Charlotte Kerbegian, Freelance musician
Chris Runciman, Tour Manager
Chris Simmons, Freelance Video Technician.
Chrissie Ranson-Thompson, Freelance horn player and brass teacher
Clara Biss, Violinist of Endymion Ensemble
Clare Raybould, Freelance violinist
Clinton Cast, Freelance Production Manager & Technical Director
Cobain Schofield, Lighting Engineer, Fractal Lighting
Dan Green, Stagehand/Dir. Rainy City Ltd

Dan Woolfie, Tour Manager
Daniel West, Bass trombonist Septura
Danielle Noble, Production Manager
Darius Luke Thompson, Violinist, Freelance
Dave Allen, Senior Production Technician, Southbank Centre
Dave Brown, Freelance Double Bassist
David Pichilingi, CEO, Modern Sky
David Ross, Freelance Lighting Designer
Deborah Annetts, Chief Executive, Incorporated Society of Musicians
Deborah Preece, Freelance violinist
Denise Kantor, KCM, Music administrator
Des Jabir, Des Jabir Productions Ltd Audio and Production Services
Donald Simon Paton - Freelance composer, performer, event curator, researcher, educator
Donald White, Retired member of Choir
Dorrie Macaulay, Freelance violinist/ composer
Duncan Aitken, Freelance sound engineer
Ean Rooney, Director, Audio Engineer, Zenith Acoustics
Ed Kay Oboe, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra
Eddy Hackett, Freelance percussionist + Director, The Lost Estate
Elizabeth Dixon, Freelance horn player
Elizabeth Drew, Freelance clarinettist, teacher
Ellie Giles, Managing Director, Step Music Management, MMF Board Member
Elsa Bradley, Freelance percussionist
Emilia Benjamin, viola da gamba, violin and viola player
Emma Pritchard, Cello
Emma Selby, Bassoonist, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra
Emre Ramazanoglu, Drummer/producer/composer
Erik Nielsen, Musician and manager, Wingnut Music
Erland Cooper, Artist
Fiona Cornall, Violin, Philharmonia Orchestra
Frank Schaefer, Cellist
Freddie Bols - freelance trumpet player
Gaby Lester- Assistant Head of Strings and Professor of Violin. The Royal College of Music
Gareth Barton, Freelance Production, Scottish Live Events Network
Gavin Kibble, Cellist
George Puttock, Software Engineer, CODA Audio
Gertie Steinacker, Freelance sound engineer, performer, and independent promoter
Gillian Mott, Freelance violinist, educator, director Maple Rose Strings
Glyn Hewitt, Director of Events, Monster Energy Europe Ltd.
Gordon Isaacs, Production/Tour Manager
Hayden Borgars, Freelance Lighting Designer working in live events
Helen Hathorn, Violinist
Helen Sykes, Deputy Chairman, International Artist Managers' Association
Holly Harman, Freelance Violinist & Record Label Founder, Penny Fiddle Records
Holly Randall, Oboist, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra
Ian Henderson, Freelance Video technician
Ian St James, Director, GiveUsA Tune - Musician/composer & Artist Development

Idris Rahman, Multi instrumentalist, composer, producer
Imogen East, Freelance violinist
Irwin Sparkes, Singer / Songwriter
James Topp, Freelance horn player
Jan Foote, Freelance composer and guitarist
Jane Bailey, Communications Director, Motionhouse
Jane Booth, International Clarinetist, Period instrument specialist
Jane Connelly, Head Dresser, New Theatre, Oxford
Janice Graham - Leader of English Sinfonia and freelance violinist
Jennifer John, Composer, singer, pianist - Jennifer John Music (JJM)
Jennifer McLaren, Clarinettist, Philharmonia Orchestra
Joely Koos, Professor of cello, TrinityLaban conservatoire
John Glover, Artist manager (ABC, Go West, Tony Hadley)
John Greatwood, Tour Manager and Sound Engineer, Sonic Satisfaction Ltd
John Rogers, Freelance Lighting Designer working in Live Events
Jon Baverstock Generations Media. Video production
Jon Webster - Music Manager
Jonathan Hallett, Viola (RPO)
Jonathan Sims, Director, Events Design Company Ltd
Jonathan Williams, Cello
Jong On Oakki Lau, Freelance violin and viola player
Jordan Bergmans, Freelance violist and violinist
Josh Miller, Liam Bates, Eoghan Robinson - Musicians (Eyesore & The Jinx)
Josh Musgrave, Lighting designer
Julia Graham, Freelance 'cellist
Justin Crane, Director, The Crane Event, Cambridge
Kate Hills, Freelance filming production manager
Kate Smith, Live Events Project / Production Manager, Swallow & Amazon Ltd
Katherine Jenkinson, Freelance cellist
Katie Brennan, Freelance Photographer
Katie Hodges, Freelance trumpet player
Kevin Carson, BECTU Negotiations Officer
Kevin McManus, Head of Music Liverpool City Council
Kevin Pritchard, French Horn Player
Kim Murphy, Freelance Bassoonist
Lara Wassenberg, Freelance violist and violinist
Laura Sewell, Audience Development and Engagement Coordinator, Motionhouse
Lene Bausager, Artist Manager, 50/50 Media House
Lionel Flint, Freelance transport co-ordinator
Lisa Ridgway, Freelance horn player
Lisa Rollin, Electric violinist and vocalist
Liza Buddie, Artist Manager / Chaos and Bedlam Management
Lizzie Ball, Freelance violinist
Louise Anna Duggan, Percussionist for Agnes Obel
Louise Bevan, Freelance violinist
Luke Bewick, DJ & Producer
Magda Gruca-Broadbent, Violinist, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

Maria A L Zani, AR Manager for Smash Global Records
Mark Brown, Freelance musician, Robbie Williams, Horne Section, Soul Family
Mark Hall, Music Venue Operator
Mark Knoop, Plus Minus Ensemble and freelance musician
Mark Scrimshaw, Freelance Lighting designer
Martin Garnish, Touring Lighting Technician
Mathew Flynn, Liverpool City Region Music Board / University of Liverpool
Matthew Russell, Freelance Sound Engineer
Maurizio Ravalico, Freelance percussionist, Producer, Composer
Max Bisgrove, Sound Engineer
Merck Mecuradis, Founder, Hypgnosis
Michael Armstrong, Music & Arts Education Manager, BCP Council
Michael Lambert, Director, A Modern Way Management
Miec Heggett, Freelance Production Electrician
Mike Conroy, Tour manager/ Front of House audio engineer
Mike Moulds, Managing Director, MM Bandservices Ltd
Miles Mcdermott - Student technician
Molly Dunlea - Musician (Beija Flo)
Morwenna Del Mar, Cellist, BBC Symphony Orchestra
Natalie McCool, Musician
Neil Heal, Freelance sound engineer
Neil Thomas, Instrumental Music Teacher
Nicholas Moroz, Composer and Artistic Director, Explore Ensemble.
Nick Askew, Creative Technology
Nick Hamblin, Lighting Designer/Programmer
Nick Hodgson, Artist, Producer, Songwriter
Nigel Griffiths, Freelance video engineer in the live events industry
Nina Whiteman, Freelance composer and singer; Co-director of Trio Atem and Manchester Contemporary Youth Opera; music lecturer at Royal Holloway and RNCM
Noreen O Riordan, Director, Marquee Entec Limited
Oli Hayhurst, Freelance bass player
Oliver Preece, Freelance Trumpet player.
Patrick Ellis, Freelance Composer and Musician
Paul 'Chumpy' Knowles, Freelance Stage Mgr/Drum Tech
Paul Bird, Freelance Lighting Technician
Paul Copeland-Watts, Freelance Stage Manager and Backline Technician
Paul Musco, Tour Manager and owner of Musco Tours Ltd
Paul Southernwood, Production Manager, Touring Solutions Ltd
Paula Clifton-Everest, Philharmonia Orchestra
Penelope Trappes, Artist
Pete Cross, Freelance Touring Video Technician and Video Crew Chief
Peter Fry, Percussionist, Philharmonia Orchestra
Peter Neill, Music industry Photographer
Peter Reynolds, Concerts & Tours Manager, Gabrieli Consort & Players
Phil Boughton, Director of Orchestra and Chorus, Opera North
Phil Williams, Ultimate International Limited Event Management
Philip White, Trombonist

Philip Winward, Production Manager ElectricFly Productions
Phillipa Just, Freelance camera operator live music.
Pip Newby, Founder, Friends Vs Music Ltd
Poppy Walshaw, Cellist with ensembles in Germany and Poland.
Rachael Macdonald, Freelance Lighting Technician
Rachel Jeffers, Freelance flautist.
Rachel Oriana Shadwick, Tour Driver
Rebecca Ayres, Managing Director, Sound City
Rebecca Breen, Violist and Singer
Rebecca Swann, Event logistics
Rebekah Allan, Violinist
Richard Evans, Freelance tuba player
Richard Sellar, Freelance sound engineer
Richard Turner, Freelance musician
Robert Crehan, Composer, educator
Robert Hayden, Tour and Production Manager
Robert Nettleship, Composer, Drummer & Educator
Robert Taylor, Freelance Set carpenter
Roderick Chadwick, Pianist and Lecturer, Royal Academy of Music
Ruth Rogers, Leader of London Mozart Players and freelance violinist
Sam Burgess, Double Bass, Ronnie Scotts House Band
Sam Carter, Tour Manager, Promoter's Rep.
Sara Deborah Struntz-Timossi, Violinist, Artistic Director Spirit of Music festival
Sara Sutherland, Freelance Live Events Project Manager
Sarah Lovell, Lead Officer Culture, Liverpool City Region Combined Authority
Sarah Moffatt, Freelance violinist
Scott Fleming, Senior venue technician
Seb Philpott, Freelance trumpet player, Old Dirty Brasstards
Selena Hackett, Freelance technician
Sharon Tea, Logistics, Crossland Bussing/Trucking
Simba Bhebhe - Freelance Sound Engineer, Artist manager, composer/producer
Simon Baker, Green Mind Promotions, Cambridge
Siwan Rhys, Freelance pianist
Sophia Kannathasan, Freelance violinist
Sophia Rahman, pianist
Sophie Gledhill, Freelance cello
Steffy Head, Personal Chef for Bands whilst on Tour
Stephanie Beck, Freelance harpist
Stephen 'Foxye' Brown Musician and songwriter/composer
Stephen Hill, Stagehand
Steve Belfield, All Ten Fingers Ltd Concert Production Rigging and Automation Services
Steve Kellaway, Lighting Programmer and tech
Steve Levitt Production Manager Prodnorth Ltd
Steven Field, Steven Field Projects - Freelance stage and production manager.
Steven Selby, Freelance Tour Manager/Sound Engineer - SJS Audio
Stuart Austin, Digital marketing

Sue Gold, Freelance Event Logistics - international business meetings, conferences, exhibitions, roadshows and public events
Sumit Bothra, Managing Director - ATC Management
Susan Evans, Freelance Violinist
Susie Winkworth, Freelance Cellist and Composer
Tamar Osborn, Bandleader, Freelance Musician & Composer
Tim Allan, Operations Manager, The Production House
Tim Gill, Cellist London Sinfonietta
Tim Kerr, Sound Engineer and Event Technologist
Tom Goode, Production Manager
Tom Lynch, Merchandiser (swag man)
Tom Zwitterlood, Production & Technical manager, Edinburgh Science Festival
TOVA - Rock/Alternative Band
Tristan Bryant - Dotted line - Tour Manager & Booking Agent
Turlough McShane, SHOWINC
Una Palliser, Freelance violinist, violist, singer
Vicky Cowles, Session Musician and Teacher
Vicky Wright, Plus Minus Ensemble and freelance clarinetist
Vincent Hemmings, Freelance Lighting Designer
Vinnie McNally, Lighting Designer, Synchronised Design Ltd
Warmduscher, Artist
William Gaunt, Lay Clerk, Westminster Cathedral and freelance singer
William Lockhart-Timpanist, ENO
Zsolt-Tihamer Visontay, Violin, Philharmonia Orchestra