



## Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

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23 February 2021

Julie Elliott MP  
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Our Ref:  
MC2021/03265/ED

Dear Julie,

Thank you for your correspondence of 8 February, to the Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP, and the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, the Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP, from yourself, your colleagues and the many UK cultural professionals, regarding concerns about the impact of the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement on British musicians being able to perform in EU countries. Your letter has been passed from the Prime Minister to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport as this issue falls within the department's remit. I am replying as the Minister for Digital and Culture.

The UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) brings into force an agreement based on friendly cooperation between sovereign equals, centred on free trade and inspired by our shared history and values. It was achieved on 24 December and subsequently ratified by both parties.

The government is hugely proud of our globally successful music industry, which is recognised as being a great cultural and economic benefit to the UK, producing talent recognised all over the world. I also appreciate that touring is a vital part of a musician's career, providing not only a vital income stream, but also enriching opportunities for cultural exchange with talented musicians from across the world. Being outside the European Union does not change this. It does, however, mean practical changes on both sides of the Channel that will require understanding and adaptation.

The UK pushed for ambitious arrangements for performers and artists to be able to work across Europe after the end of freedom of movement. Specifically, on business travel, we proposed to expand the list of permitted activities for short-term business visitors, notably to include the work done by artists, entertainers and musicians, and their supporting staff. This would have ensured that musicians could have travelled to the EU without requiring work-permits. However, regrettably the EU rejected all of our proposed additions to the list of short-term business visitor activities.

The EU proposed a non-binding declaration on paid activities for short-term visits on an ad-hoc basis for artists. Our assessment is that this did not adequately cover touring musicians nor their wider technical staff, nor the issue of EU work-permits. It also came as part of a wider package that would have required the UK to commit to a permanent short stay visa waiver for all current and future EU nationals; something that this government could not accept.

While this outcome is regrettable, there is scope to return to this issue in the future and we have made it clear that our door remains open should the EU change its mind.



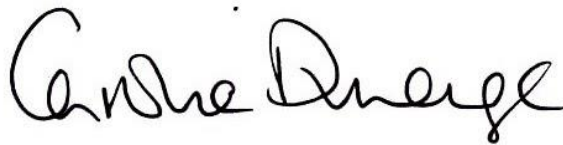
We recognise the concerns of the creative and cultural sectors regarding the new arrangements and are committed to supporting them as they get to grips with the changes to systems and processes. We have published guidance on GOV.UK, including updated [travel advice](#) for travelling to the EU, and we are engaging regularly with our embassies to support UK nationals abroad. Travellers should check what requirements they need to fulfil with the EU Member State they are travelling to, including to understand any local variations in the rules on paid work. Our agreement with the EU contains transparency and procedural facilitation measures that will help ensure visa processes are as prompt and smooth as possible.

The government is determined to work closely with stakeholders to explore how we can support the sector to make touring easier. The Secretary of State for DCMS and I held a roundtable discussion with key representatives from across the creative and cultural sectors on 20 January to discuss these issues, and we have committed to set up a new DCMS-led working group. This group, consisting of representatives from other key government departments, and sector representatives covering the breadth of our cultural and creative sectors, will tackle the range of specific issues with a view to assisting the sector as far as possible to work confidently in the EU. The first meeting of the group took place on 5 February.

The UK creative and cultural sectors represent one of the most successful industries, envied around the world. It is our aim to ensure these sectors continue to thrive for many years to come. This government has already proven its commitment to them, in particular through our £1.57bn Culture Recovery Fund, and will remain committed to ensuring the creative sectors thrive in the future.

I hope all of the assignees and yourself find this information useful.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Caroline Dinenage'.

Caroline Dinenage MP  
**Minister of State for Digital and Culture**