



Caroline Dinenage MP
Minister of State for Digital and Culture
Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport
4th Floor, 100 Parliament Street
London SW1A 2BQ

28 August 2020

Dear Minister

Re. A 'UK Creators Council' to better engage with the country's creative workforce

Following our letter of 20 April to the Secretary of State, and the recent report from the DCMS Select Committee, we are writing jointly again to urge the establishment of a mechanism through which the Department can engage regularly with representatives of the creative workforce to share our concerns, ideas and contributions to best practice, as we seek to emerge in the best possible shape from the current crisis.

Collectively, we represent over 350,000 members - creative practitioners across the wide, inter-linked spectrum of this vital sector, with a great many of them freelance and self-employed – and believe we can offer our experience, expertise and resources to assist the Government with the challenges ahead.

Such a regular 'roundtable' – a UK Creators Council, as we have called it – would complement the existing Creative Industries Council and deepen the Department's understanding, we believe, of the situation faced by the individual writers, musicians, performers, directors, artists, illustrators, photographers and designers we work with day-in, day-out and the agents who support them to make the UK such a success.

Clearly, we have welcomed the support given by the Government so far in these most difficult of times, not least the Job Retention and Self-Employment Income Support Schemes, Arts Council Emergency Funding, the £1.57 billion Cultural Recovery Fund and the new £500 million Film and TV Production and Restart Scheme.

We also recognise the financial challenges the Government faces, with so many other sectors of the economy adversely affected and needing support, and the constraints on DCMS itself. The UK's creative industries, however, depend greatly on freelancers, the self-employed and the smaller enterprises they underpin, and we believe we can help with the Department's work on their and the sector's behalf during this crisis and beyond.

We have broached such a standing engagement mechanism with your ministerial predecessors, to work constructively and collaboratively with the Department, and have made joint submissions to the DCMS and BEIS Select Committees to this effect. We have also sought to engage with and inform the Treasury, too.

We were pleased, therefore, that the DCMS Select Committee listened in its recent report and backed our proposal to establish a Creators Council, with the involvement of the Department, as a channel to understand the needs and viewpoints of the wider creative workforce, and as a boost to the confidence of all who work in the sector, too.

We hope, therefore, that before DCMS formally responds to the report's recommendations you will also be receptive to the proposal. We undertake, too, of course, to discuss constructively how it can be an asset to the work of the Department and productive in the interests of the UK's future creative and cultural success.

With best regards and yours sincerely



Isobel Dixon
President
**Association of Authors'
Agents**



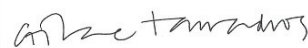
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Chief Executive
**British Equity Collecting
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Horace Trubridge
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Barbara Ann Hayes
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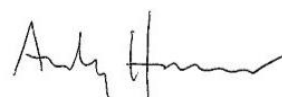
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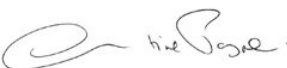
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