

Rt Hon Oliver Dowden MP
Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
100 Parliament St
Westminster
SW1A 2BQ

October 28 2020

Dear Minister,

We are writing to you about the urgent issue of workers in the creative industries preparing for the end of the Brexit transition period. At this time of extraordinary disruption to performers and writers, the full impact of Brexit and crucially, what we need to do to prepare remain unclear.

You are aware of the major shock to the industry as a result of the pandemic, with many performers facing economic hardship. The UK cannot afford to close off working opportunities for an industry which contributes over £100 billion a year to the UK economy and employs over 3 million people.

It is clear and perhaps understandable that the impact of Brexit on the creative industries is not at the top of the Government's negotiating agenda. But we are concerned this will mean issues for our industry, caused by the combined shock of Covid-19 and the permanent change of Brexit, will not be addressed at all.

On 16 October, the Government [published](#) guidance for DCMS sectors on preparing for Brexit but guidance for the creative industries was omitted. Does the Government intend to publish more information? In the absence of that information, could you answer the following questions:

1. How have the Government adapted its approach to negotiations on reciprocal visa arrangements for performers as a result of Covid-19?
2. What actions are the Government taking to make long-term working opportunities in Europe as easy as possible for creatives?
3. Can the Government confirm that it is pursuing reciprocal and free or affordable visa arrangements for those travelling to and within the EU when performing at cultural events and on tours?
4. Will the Government take forward the overall aims of the [EU copyright directive](#) through domestic legislation?
5. What recent economic assessment has the Government made of the effect of diverging from the EU on copyright in the creative industries?
6. How will the Government ensure that creators and artists have the same level of protection as those in the EU and the UK remains an attractive home for creative businesses?
7. What consideration has the Government given to including culture and arts services in future trade deals?

Many of our members face economic hardship and many fell through the cracks of the Government's support packages introduced since March. Secondary jobs in hospitality and schools, for example, are now also at risk for many musicians, performers and writers. You will therefore appreciate the importance of providing certainty and reassurance that the Government is doing all it can to ensure maximum working opportunities that are so desperately needed.

Many thanks in advance for your attention on these issues.

Yours sincerely,



Paul W Fleming
General Secretary of Equity



Ellie Peers
General Secretary of
the Writers' Guild of
Great Britain



Horace Trubridge
General Secretary
Musicians' Union