



Rt Hon. Oliver Dowden CBE MP  
Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport  
Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)  
100 Parliament Street  
London SW1A 2BQ

3 August 2020

Dear Oliver,

As you will be aware, the House of Lords EU Services Sub-Committee has taken over responsibility for scrutinising EU policies on creative services, and the implications of Brexit for these sectors, from the former EU Internal Market Sub-Committee. Our predecessor committee had a long-standing interest in these areas, and explored them in a March 2017 report titled *Brexit: trade in non-financial services*<sup>1</sup> and a follow-up letter of 3 July 2018 to Lord Callanan, then Minister of State for Exiting the EU.<sup>2</sup>

The work of our predecessor committee highlighted the UK's leadership in the creative sectors, as well as the need for any future agreement with the EU to take due account of their requirements. All of this remains true today: the creative industries are growing at more than twice the rate of the UK economy, generating over £100bn per annum in gross value added. The sector employs over 2 million people, with jobs growing at three times the UK average, and produces more than £30bn in service exports.<sup>3</sup>

In addition to this economic value, the creative industries form an important part of the cultural fabric of the UK. They shape our national conversations, help build social capital and are an important part of our soft power internationally. The UK is a leading force in its creativity in the broadcasting, TV, audio-visual, gaming and creative-tech sectors, among others.

With that in mind, we would welcome a comprehensive update on the Government's efforts to secure an agreement with the EU that supports the UK's creative services. In particular, what arrangements is the Government seeking to negotiate to mitigate potential future barriers for these services? What progress has been made in discussions with the EU on the inclusion of the audio-visual sector in the future relationship agreement?

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<sup>1</sup> European Union Committee, *Brexit: trade in non-financial services* (18th Report, Session 2016–17, HL Paper 135)

<sup>2</sup> Letter from Lord Whitty, Chair of the EU Internal Market Sub-Committee, to Lord Callanan, Minister of State for Exiting the European Union (3 July 2018): <https://www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-committees/eu-internal-market-subcommittee/brexit-%20trade%20in%20services/LordWhitty-LordCallanan-030718.pdf> [accessed 29 July 2020]

<sup>3</sup> Creative Industries Federation, *Creative Industries Manifesto 2020*: <https://www.creativeindustriesfederation.com/sites/default/files/2019-10/Creative%20Industries%20Manifesto.pdf> [accessed 27 July 2020]

Lord Callanan's reply to our predecessor committee indicated that the previous Government did not consider it necessary to negotiate a bespoke UK-EU arrangement on designation of TV content originating in the UK as 'European works'.<sup>4</sup> Does this remain the Government's view? The lack of such continued recognition could have a significant effect on the UK's TV industry. Has the Government made an assessment of the impact on the UK's TV industry if UK content is not recognised as 'European works' in the future? Does the Government see any risks to continued recognition of UK content as 'European works' after the transition period?

What arrangements is the Government seeking to negotiate for the mobility of individuals working in the creative industries? Is the Government considering a 'touring visa' to support mobility in these sectors? What progress has been made in discussions with the EU on these arrangements?

We would also be interested to understand what consideration the Government is giving to UK participation in EU funding schemes for the creative industries such as Creative Europe. In addition, what arrangements (if any) is the Government proposing to replace EU funding for the creative sectors, including film and broadcasting?

The Committee maintains an active interest in the future relationship negotiations on the creative industries, which are often overlooked in the bigger picture of the UK-EU relationship. What steps is the Government taking to engage with the creative industries sectors to ensure that their priorities and concerns are reflected in the future relationship negotiations? We would be grateful if the Committee could be kept updated about developments in this area.

We recognise that the matters raised in this letter also touch on the responsibilities of the Cabinet Office, the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy and the Treasury. We would be grateful if your department could coordinate a joint response.

We look forward to a response by 1 September 2020.

Yours sincerely,



Baroness Donaghy  
Chair of the EU Services Sub-Committee

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<sup>4</sup> Letter from Lord Callanan, Minister of State for Exiting the European Union, to Lord Whitty, Chair of the EU Internal Market Sub-Committee (17 July 2018): <https://www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-committees/eu-internal-market-subcommittee/brexit-trade-non-financial-services-follow-up/Letter-from-Lord-Callanan-to-Lord-Whitty-1707718.pdf> [accessed 29 July 2020]