



WEMAKEEVENTS 2020 Ltd
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Darren Jones MP
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Sent via email to: darren.jones.mp@parliament.uk (CC: beiscom@parliament.uk)

6th January 2021

Dear Mr Jones,

I am writing on behalf of #WeMakeEvents, an organisation consisting of the supply chain to the live events industry. Most of these companies and freelancers work across multiple sectors, including theatre, music, corporate events, festivals and almost any form of organised gatherings. In normal times, the UK's events industry is estimated to be worth £70bn in direct spend, over £31 billion of which is on commercial events, which accounts for over 50% of the UK visitor economy. However, since the first lockdown in March we have been completely unable to operate – which has devastated our industry. Part of the reason for this is that we have been unfairly excluded from vital Government support due to the fact that only businesses which are legally closed are eligible. Despite repeated representations the Government has so far refused to recognise the plight of businesses and individuals working in the supply chain.

I am writing to ask for your support as Chair of the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Select Committee to end this unjust and crippling exclusion from Government support for businesses in the live event supply chain who are unable to work due to Government social distancing restrictions.

Many businesses in the live event supply chain that are also excluded from critical support and are at imminent risk of collapse as a result. Since March, in-person live events have been all but unable to operate due to Government social distancing restrictions. Rightly, those venues that have been unable to open have received grants to support them well they are unable to earn income. However, it is not just venues that are unable to operate due to live events not taking place – the whole live event supply chain is equally impacted. Lighting companies and sound technicians, for example, have no business if the events aren't happening. As such, they have been effectively closed – but the Government currently refuses to acknowledge this, and still considers live event supply chain businesses as able to operate.

As a consequence, they are not considered eligible for schemes such as 100% business rates relief or the grants of up to £9,000 recently announced by the Government. We are in a situation where businesses have no way of earning income, yet are excluded from grants vital to their survival. As a result, our industry is at perilous risk of complete collapse.

We have raised the issue of businesses excluded from support with HMT on multiple occasions, but as was underscored by their continued exclusion of live event supply chain businesses from the most recent package of support, they continue to ignore the impact this is having on our sector.

We greatly appreciate your work to ensure vital support for businesses is provided through the pandemic. We hope you will recognise the particularly perilous situation our sector is in in your future work on this issue.

WEMAKEEVENTS 2020 LTD - Company number **12854590**



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We look forward to receiving your response and would be delighted to meet to brief you in more detail on the issue.

Yours sincerely

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