



Department
for Culture,
Media & Sport

Sir Chris Bryant MP
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Dame Caroline Dinenage MP
Chair
Culture, Media and Sport Committee
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

27 November 2024

Dear Caroline,

Thank you for your letter of 14 November on the government's response to the Culture, Media and Sport Committee's report on grassroots music venues. I welcome the Committee's continued engagement with government and the live music sector on these issues, in particular to drive progress on the implementation of a voluntary industry-led levy on arena and stadium tickets to support a sustainable grassroots music sector.

You have raised a number of issues in your letter, where the government's position is set out in the response to the Committee's report. I will focus my response on the specific questions you have raised in your letter.

On the timetable for implementation, we want to see a voluntary levy on arena and stadium tickets come into effect as soon as possible for concerts in 2025. To meet this timeline, we want to see tangible progress across the music industry by the first quarter of 2025. We urge the live music industry, and in particular the biggest commercial players who will have the biggest impact on the success of an industry-led levy, to focus on driving swift progress. We welcome the leadership shown by artists such as Coldplay, Sam Fender and Katy Perry in donating a proportion of their upcoming tour revenues to support the grassroots sector.

We have set out clear expectations on the timetable for progress, and we reserve the right to return to this matter if no satisfactory progress is made. I welcome that you will be writing to LIVE and the Music Venue Trust on these issues, and note your plans to schedule a further hearing in May if no significant progress is made. I will convene a ministerial roundtable before Christmas with live music representatives to help drive progress, and look to unblock any remaining barriers to an effective industry-led solution.

As set out in the government response, we will consider progress made on the implementation and effectiveness of a voluntary levy and whether further action is needed to support a sustainable grassroots music sector. We encourage the music sector to invest in an independent evaluation to assess the impact of a voluntary industry-led levy. Working with the sector, we will consider the extent of uptake of a voluntary levy, the level of funding raised, and the impact of funding distributed to support the grassroots sector.



Thank you for your continued engagement and scrutiny on enabling a sustainable grassroots music sector. I look forward to continuing to work together on these issues.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Bryant". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chris" and the last name "Bryant" clearly legible.

Sir Chris Bryant MP
Minister for Creative Industries, Arts and Tourism