



HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

Julian Knight MP  
Chair of the DCMS Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

8 February 2021

Dear Julian,

### **Festivals, live performance and live music**

Thank you for your letter of 6 January 2021 to the Chancellor regarding insurance for festivals, live performance and live music.

The Government recognises that this is an extremely challenging period for the events sector. Given the enormous uncertainties we are facing at this stage of the pandemic, unfortunately now is not the right time for an insurance intervention. However, as the public health situation improves and we have better sense of recovery scenarios, we will work with DCMS to review how to communicate the path to reopening and to consider the measures that are needed to support the sector to safely reopen.

I am aware that many large events have long lead-in times, so potential support will need to be considered before public health restrictions are fully relaxed. The Prime Minister announced last week that the Government would set out a roadmap for the reopening of schools, the economy and society on the week commencing 22 February. My officials are working with DCMS officials to understand what a viable roadmap would be for the reopening of the events sector and therefore the right point to consider potential support options which could unlock a reopening of the sector, including insurance-based solutions. As measures to control the virus change, it is right that government support should also evolve. Because of this, we continue to take a flexible approach and keep all impacts and policies under review.

The Government has intervened to provide insurance solutions to support sectors during this stage of the pandemic. That has included care homes, through the recent Designated Settings Indemnity Support to directly support our public health efforts, and Film and TV, with the Film & TV Production Restart Scheme. It should be noted that professional film sets can more easily be made COVID-secure than public events, and exemptions under government guidance allow this activity to continue under lockdown.

In order to design an appropriate support measure, the Government took a bespoke approach working closely with the sector and insurers, and taking account of the size, frequency and nature of the risk as well as the costs to the taxpayer and wider economic benefits.

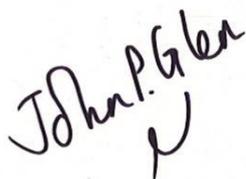
I can assure you that we are working closely with the insurers, the trade bodies and regulators to understand what more the industry can do to help individuals and businesses as the economy reopens, and to monitor the availability of cover and the impact this is having on the sector. We will continue to engage with insurers and the events sector to understand the barriers faced by the sector as we recover from the pandemic.

The Government has announced a £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund which will help to protect jobs and cultural organisations across the country whilst it is not possible for performances or events to take place due to public health restrictions. To date, more than £790m of grants and loans have been allocated to over 3,000 cultural organisations in England. Organisations supported include galleries, theatres, museums, orchestras, music venues, comedy clubs and festivals. As part of this package, £188m has been allocated to the Devolved Administrations through the Barnett formula. The Budget will be an opportunity to take stock of our wider, cross-economy support and set out the next stage of our economic response to the pandemic.

The Government is exploring all options to ensure businesses can build resilience following the outbreak of COVID-19. We encourage businesses in the events sector encountering financial difficulty as a result of this unprecedented situation to review the initiatives in the Government's support package, such as business rates holidays, the Additional Restrictions Grant which provides local councils with grant funding to support closed businesses that do not directly pay business rates as well as businesses that do not have to close but which are impacted, and loan schemes such as the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme, for which the application window has been extended to 31 March.

I am copying this letter to Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP, Prime Minister and Rt Hon Oliver Dowden MP, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John P. Glen" with a stylized flourish underneath.

JOHN GLEN