



Rt Hon Oliver Dowden MP
Secretary of State
Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport
100 Parliament Street
London
SW1A 2BQ

Friday 12th March

Dear Secretary of State

WE NEED A TOURING VISA WAIVER TO CARRY ON TOURING

Carry on Touring unites touring artists and professionals in their support for Tim Brennan's petition - signed by circa 300,000 petitioners - which calls on the Government to agree a visa waiver agreement and touring exemption in the EU. We believe that this must be secured alongside any other proposals you may be considering, including establishing a UK Music Export Office.

Touring artists and professionals have been hit so hard by the pandemic and as we move towards recovery it is neither sustainable, affordable or practical for those who tour to have to navigate the different visa and work permit rules for each EU Member State. It will have a catastrophic impact on the UK cultural economy across all touring art forms and particularly for young and emerging artists. Without a return to the negotiating table many jobs and livelihoods will be lost; as well as income for crew, haulage and production, at a time when the sector needs a lifeline from Government.

A Music Export Office would, of course, be very welcome. However, we fear that, on its own, it will not unravel or reduce the bureaucratic and regulatory burden the music and wider creative sector will face when they work and tour in the EU. We hope that the Government will recognise that we need help to fix the real problems created by the sheer costs, paperwork and time-limits.

We believe that the ability to carry on touring will only be addressed, in any meaningful sense, via a visa waiver agreement with the EU, exempting touring performers, creative teams and crews. We call on the Government to fight our corner and return to the negotiating table. The impact on our lives and our ability to earn and pay tax in an industry that brings pleasure to millions of people is under huge pressure.

Campaign Coordinator – Gill Morris
Email – info@carryontouring.uk



If you really want to keep the show on the road for all creative touring professionals, we urge you to ensure a visa waiver is agreed with the EU.

We would welcome some clarity and the opportunity to meet with you to discuss our concerns and look forward to receiving a prompt reply.

Yours sincerely,

Carry on Touring

Tim Brennan, Petition Creator, Freelancer
Ian Smith, Owner, Frusion and Fizzion International Music Agencies
Gill Morris, Campaign Co-ordinator & CEO, DevoConnect
Andrew Hurst MBE, Chief Executive, One Dance UK.
Angus MacKechnie, Executive Director, OutdoorArtsUK
Deborah Annetts, Chief Executive, Incorporated Society of Musicians
Horace Trubridge, General Secretary, Musician's Union
Jessie Murphy, Founder, Let Music Live
Louise Richards, Executive Director, Motionhouse
Natalie Yesufu Adele Edwards, CEO, Transition Stage Company
Paul W Fleming, General Secretary, Equity
Paule Constable, Freelancers Make Theatre Work
Philippa Childs, Head of BECTU
Sacha Lord, Director, Warehouse Project
Tamara Cincik, CEO & Founder of Fashion Roundtable
Rory Palmer, former Labour MEP for the East Midlands
David Warburton MP, Somerton and Frome
Hilary Benn MP, Leeds Central
Jamie Stone MP, Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross
Julie Elliott MP, Sunderland Central
Kevin Brennan MP, Cardiff West
Pete Wishart MP, Perth and North Perthshire
Tracy Brabin MP, Batley and Spen
Baroness Jane Bonham-Carter
Earl of Clancarty
Lord Aberdare
Lord Berkeley of Knighton CBE
Lord Clement-Jones CBE
Lord Foster of Bath
Lord German OBE

Campaign Coordinator – Gill Morris
Email – info@carryontouring.uk