



Harriet Harman MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Wednesday 17th March

Dear Harriet

We were pleased to see your report on the problems faced by UK Musicians in the context of the Government's failure to secure a UK touring exemption.

As you know, Carry on Touring is the umbrella campaign for which all those who tour – and rely on touring - can support and sit under. It brings together voices from across the touring, cultural and creative industries sector to secure cross-party support for Tim Brennan's petition. The strength of this campaign is that it is inclusive reaching across the sector, industry and political parties; focusing on the real people, real lives and real jobs affected.

We were naturally disappointed that your report only focussed on UK Musicians. This is a much bigger problem which impacts on real people like Tim Brennan who depend on touring for their livelihoods; dancers and performers, techs, video, sound and lighting crew, the riggers, special effects, set carpenters, automation, wardrobe, makeup and hair, the production team, catering, the drivers, and anyone else working behind the scenes

It was unfortunate that we were not invited to contribute to the session which was held by your Labour colleagues with various trade bodies. We hope that you will now give us the opportunity to brief you on the bigger picture and proposals which we know will provide the solution needed to carry on touring and unlock the cultural economy. It would be great to have your support and advocacy.

In particular, we would like to brief you on why Carry on Touring believe that the Music Export Office mooted by the Government - is only a small part of the solution.

In our letters sent to both Oliver Dowden MP and Kwasi Kwarteng MP (please find attached), the Carry on Touring campaign – the campaign which has united touring artists and professionals in their support for Tim Brennan's petition signed by circa 300,000 petitioners - 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 proposal the Government may be considering, including establishing a UK Music/Cultural Export Office. This letter was signed by Trade Bodies across the cultural sector and Parliamentarians.



Whilst a UK Music/Cultural Export Office would be very welcome, 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.

It would be very good to talk to you more about this and I trust that Tim and other members of the Carry on Touring campaign will have the opportunity to meet you as soon as possible.

We will be in touch to fix a time.

Best wishes,

Carry on Touring Campaign