



Rt Hon Michelle Donelan MP
Secretary of State
Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
100 Parliament Street
London
SW1A 2BQ

29th November 2022

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jay Byrnes".

UNLOCKING THE UK-EU DEADLOCK:
TIME FOR ACTION TO GET TOURING PROFESSIONALS AND ARTISTS BACK ON TOUR

As the new Secretary of State, we are writing to you in the hope that you will want to do everything you can to get creative artists and professionals back on tour and unlock the deadlock created by the failure to secure an exemption in the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) for those UK nationals who rely on touring for a living.

The UK's cultural economy is being severely impacted. Touring professionals now face a mountain of bureaucracy alongside confusing, burdensome, and costly procedures in each EU country they visit on tour. Additionally, the '90/180 day' rule, which limits the time UK citizens have access to the Schengen area, continues to put real jobs and real lives at stake. Please read Steve Barney's [letter](#) which sets out the true story of what is happening to UK creatives and artists who do go on tour.

Right now, tours are still stuck on British soil, leaving countless careers on hold. UK passport holders are simply being turned down or not offered the roles in the first place. 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 pressure like never before. We believe it is not impossible for you as the new Secretary of State to unlock the deadlock and find a solution that will truly get this world-leading industry back to what it does best.

Our UK-EU Summit in the House of Lords, attended by Parliamentarians from across the House including Lord Clement-Jones CBE, Lord German, Baroness Bull, Earl of Clancarty, Lord Berkeley, Lord Wallace, Baroness Bonham Carter, Kevin Brennan MP, Tommy Shepherd MP and Christina Rees MP highlighted how creative touring has been affected by the TCA, which, in its current form, roundly fails the UK's world-leading creative industries.

We want you to fight our corner and ultimately return to the negotiating table to talk through an exemption. Without this, many jobs and livelihoods will be lost, as well as income for crew, haulage, and production. We hope that you will now take the urgent action needed to resolve the problems created by the TCA and re-engage with your counterparts across Europe to reach a resolution which supports this vital part of our economy.

London
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We believe that the UK must open the door to negotiation, work to unlock the deadlock and get touring working.

We look forward to your urgent reply and hope that you will be keen to meet with representatives and supporters of Carry on Touring to explain why the Government's position is untenable. We very much hope that you will listen and act.

Lord Clement-Jones

Lord Clement-Jones

Baroness Bonham-Carter
Baroness Randerson
Rt Hon Ben Bradshaw MP
Rt Hon Caroline Nokes MP
Christina Rees MP
Damian Collins MP
Earl of Clancarty
Rt Hon Harriet Harman MP
Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP
Jamie Stone MP
Julie Elliott MP
Kevin Brennan MP
Lord German
Lord McNally
Lord Strasburger
Lord Wallace
Rt Hon Stephen Crabb MP
Tommy Shephard MP
Tony Lloyd MP
Tracy Brabin

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