



Department
for Culture,
Media & Sport

Julia Lopez MP
Minister for Media, Tourism and
Creative Industries
1st Floor
100 Parliament Street
London SW1A 2BQ

E: enquiries@dcms.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/dcms

Delyth Jewell MS
Chair, Culture, Communications, Welsh Language,
Sport, and International Relations Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff CF99 1SN

3 May 2024

INT2024/03469/DC

Dear Delyth,

Thank you for your letter of 20 March 2024 to my Rt Hon Friends the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, and the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, to give evidence to your inquiry into culture and the relationship with the European Union.

I am afraid that exceptionally busy diaries mean it will not be possible for a UK Government Minister to give oral evidence to your Committee. I would like to submit this letter as written evidence.

UK-EU relations are positive and driving good results. Whilst the United Kingdom decided to leave the European Union, we can still be friends, neighbours and partners.

The UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) is one of the most comprehensive free trade agreements in the world and our aim is to make the most of it. However, it was inevitable that following the UK's departure from the EU there would be changes to the arrangements under which UK creative and cultural professionals operate in the EU, and vice versa.

HM Government is committed to supporting the UK's creative and cultural sectors to adapt to these arrangements, and provides practical online support via the Export Support Service. We have also worked with the sectors, and directly with EU Member States, to clarify what UK creative and cultural professionals need to do to tour in the EU. This includes, clarifying the terms of mobility of professionals, the movement of goods and transportation.

The majority of Member States (23 out of 27) have confirmed the conditions of entry and introduced easements to allow visa and work permit-free routes for UK performers for some short-term touring. This includes the UK's biggest touring markets such as France, Germany, the Netherlands and Spain, the latter having changed its position following engagement from the UK Government and industry. The UK Government continues to work closely with the sector to amplify each other's lobbying efforts, and continue to engage with the few remaining Member States to confirm the requirements and clarify guidance. We also raised the issue of touring musicians' mobility with the EU at the Trade Partnership Committee of the UK-EU TCA on 7 December 2023. Ultimately, however, it is up to EU Member States if they want to replicate the UK's generous approach.



The UK Government has also supported the sectors to adjust to the new arrangements for moving goods between the UK and EU. HMRC has published improved guidance on GOV.UK on the options available for moving goods temporarily between the UK and EU.

Furthermore, following a Call for Evidence on the Temporary Admission procedure last year, HMRC and HM Treasury have been engaging with the cultural and creative sectors on potential changes to make the procedure more accessible and facilitative, and therefore more beneficial.

The UK is already part of the international ATA Carnet system. An ATA Carnet is an option for temporarily moving goods, such as technical equipment, or goods for exhibitions and events, between the UK and EU. It allows goods to be accounted for on a single document, simplifying the process by which it can be cleared through customs. Guidance and a list of countries that accept ATA Carnets are available on GOV.UK and through the London Chamber of Commerce.

Additionally, some goods, such as musical instruments, are protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and require CITES checks when travelling between the UK and EU via a designated CITES Point of Entry/Exit. The UK has increased the number of CITES Points of Entry from 11 to 36 since 2021. Any additional designations will be considered as part of an annual review process.

EU rules state that each individual is able to take up to 1000 euros worth of merchandise, weighing less than a tonne, into the EU to sell on tour without paying EU customs duties. This enables creative and cultural professionals to take some merchandise to the EU duty-free.

Regarding transportation, we have clarified that splitter vans with up to eight passengers, a driver and their equipment, do not fall in the scope of the UK-EU TCA. Therefore, the use of these vehicles by creative and cultural professionals is subject to the applicable Member State law.

We have also introduced 'dual registration' to support specialist concert hauliers to tour more easily across the UK and EU. This allows operators who have an established base in the EU, and also maintain a GB base and operate on a hire or reward basis, to transfer their vehicles between their two operator licences without needing to pay Vehicle Excise Duty in the UK.

The UK Government also takes a range of other measures to support the creative and cultural sectors to operate internationally. To promote continued research and innovation partnerships between the UK and European research and science experts, including on cultural heritage and the creative industries, the UK continues to participate in the EU's Horizon Europe Programme. The Music Export Growth Scheme specifically assists touring musicians to break into new international markets, including the EU, for which funding will be tripled to £3.2 million until 2025 as announced under the Creative Industries Sector Vision.¹ Support is also provided for UK independent screen content to grow in international markets via the UK Global Screen Fund, which will deliver £28 million in funding between 2021-2025. A number of Welsh applicants since 2021 have been awarded funding, including international distribution support for 'Brian and Charles' which was set and filmed in Welsh locations. 'Brian and Charles' was nominated for a BAFTA in 2022 and won the Audience Favourite Award at Sundance Film Festival in 2023.

¹ [Creative Industries Sector Vision: A Joint Plan to Drive Growth, Build Talent and Develop Skills](#)

Additionally, we hold bilateral film and TV co-production agreements with 12 countries, and through the Council of Europe Convention on Cinematographic Co-Production the UK can also co-produce with 46 Council of Europe Member States, many of which are also EU Member States. For UK acts performing at international industry-facing showcase events, the UK provides an International Showcase Fund. This offers grants of up to £5,500 for international export opportunities for UK-based artists, bands, songwriters and producers.

For musicians, entertainers and artists from non-visa national countries, including EU Member States, the UK's immigration system contains very generous options to come and undertake paid work in the UK. The length of stay varies from 30 days under the Paid Permitted Engagement route,² to up to twelve months on the Temporary Worker Creative Worker route.³ Visa-free access for up to three months is also provided for under the Creative Worker Visa Concession, and for up to six months if musicians, entertainers or artists are performing at a permit-free festival, ranging from Green Man to Glyndebourne, as published under the immigration rules on GOV.UK. Personal or technical staff, or members of a production team can also support the activities of an artist, entertainer or musician coming to the UK under the Paid Permitted Engagement or Standard Visitor route, provided they are attending the same event and are employed to work for them outside of the UK. Distinct from these shorter-term routes, the Global Talent route enables talented and promising individuals in the fields of arts and culture wishing to work in the UK, provided they are leaders or have the potential to be leaders in their field, as determined by an endorsing body.

The UK Government has also supported events in partnership with the Welsh cultural and creative sectors. For example, the Department for Business and Trade co-curated and co-produced "Going Global" in Cardiff and Bangor to provide Welsh production companies with practical advice and support to enable them to explore opportunities in international markets in conjunction with S4C and the Welsh Independent Producers Association. Similarly, at the 2023 Wales Screen Summit, a session entitled "How to Make Money While You Sleep", focused on the creation, development, production, sales and marketing of television formats to the international market.

The cultural and creative sectors contribute significantly to the economic prosperity of the UK, by enriching citizens' lives, and playing a vital role in presenting the UK as an attractive location to visit and invest. We continue to foster strong international relationships, including with the European Union, by promoting opportunities to share best practices or contribute to dialogues on important issues.

As I have detailed above, the UK Government is committed to a comprehensive set of domestic and international-facing interventions to ensure that the UK's cultural and creative sectors remain globally competitive and are equipped with the right tools or guidance to continue on a path of growth.

Thank you once again for your letter. I can assure you my ministerial colleagues and I will be following the Committee's work in this area closely.

² Does not require a visa if musicians, entertainers and artists are invited to the UK by a UK-based client or organisation and paid by a UK source.

³ If musicians, entertainers or artists obtain a visa and Certificate of Sponsorship.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, and the Secretary of State for Wales.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julia". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'J'.

Julia Lopez MP
Minister for Media, Tourism and Creative Industries