



Department for
Digital, Culture,
Media & Sport

Meg Hillier MP
meghilliermp@parliament.uk

Caroline Dinenage MP
Minister of State for Digital and Culture
4th Floor
100 Parliament Street
London SW1A 2BQ

E: enquiries@dcms.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/dcms

10 February 2021

Your Ref: [REDACTED]
Our Ref: [REDACTED]

Dear Meg,

Thank you for your correspondence of 29 January, to the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, the Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP, on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED], regarding their concerns about visa-free travel to Europe for UK artists. I am responding as the Minister for Digital and Culture.

UK performers and artists are of course still able to tour and perform in the EU and vice versa. This government recognises the importance of the UK's thriving cultural industries, and pushed for ambitious arrangements for performers and artists to be able to work across Europe after the end of freedom of movement. In negotiations with the EU on business travel, we proposed to expand the list of permitted activities for short-term business visitors, notably to include the work done by artists, entertainers and musicians, and their supporting staff. This would have ensured that musicians could have travelled to the EU without requiring work-permits. However, it is worth noting that the EU rejected all of our proposed additions to the list of short-term business visitor activities.

This outcome is regrettable, however there is scope to return to this issue in the future and we have made it clear that our door remains open should the EU change its mind. We recognise the concerns of the creative and cultural sectors regarding the new arrangements and are committed to supporting them as they get to grips with the changes to systems and processes. We have published guidance on GOV.UK, including [updated travel advice](#) for travelling to the EU, and we are engaging regularly with our embassies to support UK nationals abroad. Travellers should check what requirements they need to fulfil with the EU Member State they are travelling to, including to understand any local variations in the rules on paid work. Our agreement with the EU contains Transparency and Procedural Facilitation measures that will help ensure visa processes are as prompt and smooth as possible.

The government is determined to work closely with stakeholders to explore how we can support the sector to make touring easier. The Secretary of State for DCMS and I held a roundtable discussion with key representatives from across the creative and cultural sectors on 20 January to discuss these issues, and we have committed to set up a new DCMS-led working group. This group, consisting of representatives from other key government departments, and sector representatives covering the breadth of our cultural and creative sectors, will tackle the range of specific issues with a view to assisting the sector as far as possible to work confidently in the EU.

I hope your constituents and yourself find this information useful.

With best wishes,

Caroline Dinenage MP
Minister of State for Digital and Culture

