



Caroline Dinenage MP  
Minister of State for Digital, Culture, Media, and Sport  
Department for Digital, Culture, Media, and Sport  
100 Parliament Street  
London  
SW1A 2BQ

14<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Minister,

I am getting in touch following the discussion on the Entertainment and Events Working Group to emphasise the urgency of the situation facing staff in the creative industries, especially in areas such as theatre.

As you know, we have welcomed the announcement of support from the government while noting that it is already too late for many, and that with redundancies being announced across the sector it is essential that this support get to where it needs to go as soon as possible. I am sure you would agree with me that in order to recover quickly from this pandemic this fund must be used to protect as many creative jobs as possible- but that requires swift action.

Is there any information you are able to share to help us understand what timescales the Department is working towards in relation to getting grants and loans out to organisations that need urgent support and when might we expect to see the criteria published?

I am sure that you will understand that a number of theatres have already begun redundancy consultation and whilst our officials have been arguing for a delay in that whilst more details of the recovery package are developed and released. Unsurprisingly theatres are saying that they are unable to take that step without having some certainty about whether they will be eligible to access funds and therefore timing is critical.

In addition I would welcome any more information from the Department about any further measures being taken to support the creative freelancers who are the bedrock of the workforce in the sector. You will know that many are in a desperate situation having fallen outside the government support schemes, and the future of the sector is at risk if these workers are unable to stay in the creative industries for financial reasons.

Finally, it has been suggested that there may be a reduction in frequency of working group meetings and I wanted to register with you my view that this would be premature whilst this vital issues and also the time frames for the final stages of the road map are still unclear.

Yours sincerely,

**Philippa Childs**

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