

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

14th August 2020

Dear Conifer,

RE: NIGHT TIME INDUSTRIES & COVID-19.

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of support for the performing arts during Coronavirus, specifically in relation to dance music clubs; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

Like you, I very much regret the impact that Coronavirus has had on performing arts in our country, and look forward to when our treasured cultural sector can make a full return.

Indeed, I strongly welcome the £1.57 billion rescue package that has been announced to help Britain's globally renowned arts, culture and heritage industries weather the impact of COVID-19. Thousands of organisations across a range of sectors, including the performing arts and theatres, heritage, historic palaces, museums, galleries, live music and independent cinemas, will be able to access emergency grants and loans.

The money, which represents the biggest ever one-off investment in UK culture, will provide a lifeline to vital cultural and heritage organisations across the country hit hard by the pandemic. Further details about the package can be found, here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/157-billion-investment-to-protect-britains-world-class-cultural-arts-and-heritage-institutions>

This package builds on earlier support measures, including a £160 million emergency response package announced by Arts Council England in March. Further details can be found on the Arts Council's website, here:

<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19>

The establishment of the Entertainment and Events Working Group was also very welcome. The Working Group informs and supports the work of the Cultural Renewal Taskforce headed by the Culture Secretary, the Rt. Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP, which is working to find innovative ways to reopen the arts sector as soon as possible.

I know that this pandemic presents a significant challenge to the night time industries. The cultural package will include some businesses operating in the night time economy, and detailed guidance on eligibility will be published as soon as possible.



While it is extensive, it cannot support every organisation. There are a number of financial packages available to support nightclubs, including Business Rates relief, grants, and the Bounceback Loan Scheme. There has also been a new code of practice for commercial property and an extension to temporary tenant protections until the 30th September.

The Secretary of State has announced that the first tranche of funding from the £1.57 billion cultural recovery package will be used to save around 150 grassroots music venues from insolvency. £2.25 million of emergency funding will be used to support venues at imminent risk of collapse, with grants of up to £80,000 to help venues survive the next few months, to cover essential on-going costs for venues including rent, utilities, maintenance contracts and other bills.

The Business Rates retail discount has been extended to 100 percent and is applicable to music venues irrespective of rateable value.

I know the Secretary of State, Ministers and Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) officials continue to consult the creative and cultural sectors extensively to ensure they understand fully the potential impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak on the sector. DCMS officials and Ministers have also held regular calls with representatives from across the arts and cultural sector and these have included representatives from the Royal Shakespeare Company and a number of dance schools and representatives including Sadler's Wells and Northern Ballet.

I shall, of course, continue to monitor progress as we move forward, and no doubt the package of support will continue to be kept under constant review.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

With best wishes,
Tom

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**