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Julia Lopez MP
Minister of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
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22 October 2021

Dear Minister,

We are writing as members of the Touring Group who have been working alongside your Department to play a helpful and constructive role in reaching a solution to issues which exist for touring musicians.

We have previously raised issues with the former Secretary of State regarding the DCMS announcement on 4th August: 'Visa-free short-term touring allowed in 19 member states'.

We were concerned that this claim gave a misleading impression to members of the creative industries who rely on work in Europe and that your announcement implied that musicians (and other creative professionals) touring in those 19 member states would be permitted to work visa-free for up to 90 days. Existing short-stay visa-waivers between the EU and third countries are commonly 90 days within a 180-day period. This isn't the case with many of the countries which are listed and without explicitly outlining the exact limitations, confusion could be caused. The Touring Group have made this point to officials in your Department on multiple occasions.

It was therefore extremely disappointing to see a new announcement from your Department on 12th October which claimed that visa-free short-term touring was now allowed in 20 member states due to the addition of Romania to the original list. This announcement has done nothing to correct the misleading information from August and, more worryingly, is being shared widely online without question or qualification.

The UK Music report, *This is Music*, released on 19th October, highlights the devastating impact of the past 18 months on the music sector. In the foreword to this report, the Secretary of State gave her commitment that the Government would continue to back the UK music industry 'every step of the way'. Now, more than ever, it is vital for DCMS to fulfil this pledge and work in partnership with the sector to support a music industry in crisis.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Deborah Annetts

Chief Executive Incorporated Society of Musicians



Horace Trubridge

General Secretary Musicians' Union



Paul Pacifico

Chief Executive AIM



David Martin

Chief Executive Featured Artists Coalition



Tim Brennan

Petition Creator Carry on Touring

Ian Smith

Carry on Touring and ukeartswork



Annabella Coldrick

Chief Executive Music Managers Forum



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