

Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer

4 June 2020

Dear Rishi,

Report on the impact of the COVID 19 outbreak on the arts sector in Wales

I attach a copy of the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee's report on the impact of the COVID 19 outbreak on the arts sector in Wales.

The report reflects the concerns we heard that this pandemic may result in many organisations going out of business and artists and performers losing their livelihoods. Those we heard from during the inquiry told us that although UK Government interventions, such as the self-employment income support scheme, are welcome, the nature of employment in the arts can mean practitioners are not able to take advantage of them.

We are recommending that the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme is extended and the Job Retention Scheme continues beyond October 2020. We are also calling for the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme to be revised to ensure no freelance workers fall through the gaps in eligibility for the scheme.

Many people have contacted me with their concerns about their pressing financial difficulties, and I would like to give them assurances that artists and performers' distinct employment circumstances will not disqualify them from receiving support. I would therefore be grateful if you could respond at your earliest convenience.



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Yours sincerely,

Helen Mary Jones.

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Chair of the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee

