



Department for
Digital, Culture,
Media & Sport

Caroline Dinenage MP
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7 December 2020

Helen Mary Jones
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Our Ref: MC2020/15995/RC

Dear Helen,

Thank you for your correspondence of 21 July, to the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, the Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP, regarding the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on the creative industries. I am responding as the Minister for Digital and Culture. Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in you receiving a response.

DCMS recognises the crucial role that art practitioners play in the UK's creative industries, and that the COVID-19 pandemic presents a significant challenge to many individuals operating in this sector.

As you are aware, the Secretary of State announced an unprecedented £1.57 billion support package for key cultural organisations, including the creative industries. This package will benefit art practitioners by providing support to arts, cultural, and heritage organisations to stay open and continue operating.

Arts Council England has made £119 million available to individuals, with £23.1 million already distributed and £95.9 million currently available to apply for via open funds. This includes:

- £17.1 million distributed through the Emergency Response Fund for individuals;
- £6 million distributed by a series of Benevolent Funds focused on the self-employed.
- £18 million available through their Developing Your Creative Practice fund; and
- £77.9 million available through National Lottery Project Grants (available to both individuals and organisations).

As you are aware, culture is devolved and the Welsh Government received £59 million under the Barnett formula from the £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund - the biggest ever one-off cash-injection in UK culture - which the Welsh Government is free to decide how this funding is spent to support culture in Wales. Please note that Welsh organisations will also benefit from English funding where they operate on a UK-wide basis.

To address the issue of a lack of COVID-19 insurance cover in the film and TV production sector, on the 29 July 2020 the Government announced a £500 million UK-wide Film and TV Production Restart Scheme, which provides support for future losses (delays or abandonment of productions) caused by COVID-19 for domestic producers with eligible productions. More information can be accessed [here](#).

At the beginning of June, DCMS supported industry to deliver the British Film Commission's *Working Safely During COVID-19 in Film and High-end TV Drama Production* guidance. This document provides high-level guidance to manage COVID-19 specific risks in producing film and high-end TV drama, and has allowed productions to restart across the UK. It was prepared with input from crew and crew representatives, industry bodies, unions and the devolved administrations in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, and in consultation with Public Health England (PHE) and the Health and Safety

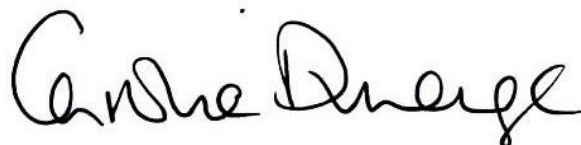


Executive (HSE).

I continue to talk to stakeholders across the creative industries, including music organisations and festivals, to discuss the impact of the current economic support packages in place and the risks of COVID-19 to operation.

I hope you find this information useful.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caroline Dinenage". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Caroline Dinenage MP
Minister of State for Digital and Culture