



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-756
Ein cyf/Our ref KS/01327/17

Mike Hedges AM
Chair - Petitions Committee

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

23 April 2017

Dear

Mike,

Thank you for your letter on 3 April regarding Live Music Protection in Wales.
(Petition P-05-756)

The petition addresses two related areas; the agent of change principle and the use of legislation to allow for recognition of areas of cultural significance for music.

Existing policy in Planning Policy Wales already has a similar approach to the agent of change principle, in saying that new uses should not be introduced into an area without consideration of the existing uses. Ensuring effective noise mitigation is implemented as part of a new development, where appropriate, is also part of this approach. It is also already open to local planning authorities to consider the compatibility of uses in areas and afford appropriate protection where they consider it necessary, as part of their Local Development Plans. National policy does not however, explicitly reference the agent of change principle or the cultural significance of live music venues in this regard.

In England there was a commitment given in the UK Government's Housing White Paper (published 7 February 2017) to amend the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in England to emphasise that account should be taken of existing businesses, such as music venues. This followed earlier changes to secondary legislation made in England to allow a number of commercial types of uses to be converted into residential properties without the need for planning permission, a change which has caused problems for live music venues in England. These changes to secondary legislation were not made in Wales and planning permission is still required before the commercial uses of buildings can be changed into residential ones.

Officials have met with the Music Venue Trust and other stakeholders to discuss the agent of change principle as part of the review of Planning Policy Wales. The challenges facing live music venues are acknowledged as well as the role these activities play in our cultural

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400
Gohebiaeth.Ken.Skates@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Ken.Skates@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

experience and in fostering creativity in the music sector. Ways in which this can be better reflected as part of Planning Policy Wales are currently being considered.

My officials in the creative sector team are also looking at other, non-legislative measures to support grassroots music venues and are speaking to local authorities, venue owners and industry stakeholders to understand their requirements better.

Yours ever,

Ken

Ken Skates AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a'r Seilwaith
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure