



Department
for Exiting the
European Union

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Dear Michael

Thank you for your email of 29 November, about touring musicians and in support of the Musicians' Union's call for a musician's visa after our EU exit. I am responding on behalf of the Prime Minister.

Music is one of the UK's greatest success stories, producing talent that is recognised the world over. The UK's decision to leave the EU will not change that and neither will it diminish our outstanding creativity. The creative industries, including the music industry, are an important sector to the Government and we have demonstrated this with the announcement of an early sector review of the creative industries in the industrial strategy published in January of this year.

To put your mind at rest in relation to the immediate future, I would like to reassure you that the UK and EU negotiating teams have reached agreement on the terms of an implementation period that will start on 30 March 2019 and last until 31 December 2020. During the implementation period, the UK will no longer be a Member State of the European Union, but market access will continue on current terms and UK nationals, including musicians, will be able to travel and work in EU as they do now.

Looking to the future, I can assure you that, as our White Paper on our future relationship with the EU sets out, we recognise the long history of collective endeavours between the UK and EU to improve the lives of our citizens through cultural activities. Therefore, we will seek a specific co-operative accord with the EU which will make specific provision for mobility to allow UK musicians to perform in the EU, and EU musicians to perform in the UK. We are

working with our European partners with ambition and creativity to develop the details of a partnership that we firmly believe will be in the best interests of both the UK and the EU.

More generally, as the White Paper explains, recognising the depth of the UK-EU relationship, the UK will make a sovereign choice to seek reciprocal mobility arrangements with the EU in a defined number of areas, for example to allow business professionals to move to provide services, or tourists to continue to travel visa-free. The framework for mobility will allow people and students to travel freely, without a visa, for tourism and temporary business activity and ensure that people continue to benefit from world leading cultural and educational experiences the UK and EU have to offer. This framework will only represent what we agree reciprocally.

Free movement of goods

In relation to your concerns about free movement of goods, I can assure you that, on 25 November 2018, the Government published its Political Declaration setting out the agreed future relationship with the EU. The Political Declaration outlines the EU and the UK's commitment to a free trade area for goods, with no tariffs and no quotas, combining deep regulatory and customs cooperation and underpinned by provisions ensuring open and fair competition. This is the first such agreement between an advanced economy and the EU. We have also agreed ambitious arrangements for services and investment that go well beyond WTO commitments, and build on recent EU Free Trade Agreements, alongside new arrangements on financial services.

As our White Paper published earlier this year sets out, this Government recognises that the temporary movement of goods and equipment is a priority for music cultural and creative sectors. This includes instruments and equipment used by touring musicians. As part of the cultural accord we want to seek with the EU, the UK would like to explore options to build on existing precedents such as the EU's Cultural Cooperation Protocols with third countries.

Copyright

For our future relationship with the EU, we propose a unique and ambitious partnership based on our rules and regulations being the same at the start, and on maintaining our commitment to free trade and high standards – while allowing for us both to make changes where we want to, in a stable and orderly way.

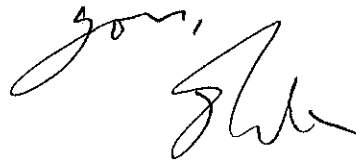
The European Union (Withdrawal) Act completed its passage through Parliament on 26 June 2018, marking a crucial step in our preparations for leaving the EU in this regard. This is an essential piece of legislation which has received an unprecedented amount of scrutiny since it was introduced in July 2017. It is designed to ensure that the UK exits the EU with certainty, continuity and control. The Act will provide a functioning statute book on the day we leave the EU, and ensure that it is for our sovereign Parliament (and in some cases for the devolved legislatures) to make any future changes.

The Act will maximise certainty for individuals and businesses as we leave the EU, including in relation to copyright. I agree with your constituent that it is in no one's interests for there to be a cliff edge, and so the laws and rules that we have now will, so far as possible, continue to apply. This gives the maximum possible certainty to individuals and businesses about their legal rights and obligations as we leave the EU, and provides the basis for a smooth and orderly exit.

The powers in the Act will ensure that, whatever the outcome of the negotiations, the statute book can continue to function. New primary legislation beyond the European Union (Withdrawal) Act will be required to implement new policies or institutional arrangements that go beyond replicating current EU arrangements in UK law, and this will be scrutinised by Parliament in the normal way.

What is important now is that the Government brings the country together and focuses its energies on securing a new partnership with the EU which guarantees our long term prosperity.

Thank you for taking the time to write on this important matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robin Walker', written in a cursive style.

**ROBIN WALKER MP
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
EXITING THE EUROPEAN UNION**