



7 January 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

On behalf of UK Music we wish you every success for 2020. Following your General Election victory last month, we expressed hope that this will now deliver the stability we need to get things done, including a new and comprehensive strategy to support music.

Recent commitments in the Queen's Speech to extend business rate relief to grassroots music venues and announcements that the Conservative Party manifesto commitment to introduce an arts premium will be taken forward indicate promising signs for the ability of your Government to deliver for music.

As Parliament returns this week and resumes consideration of the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill I am writing to reiterate our industry's principal issues in relation to leaving the European Union. We ask you to ensure that 2020 is the year that we "get Brexit done" for music. This can be achieved in two specific areas:-

1. **Implementation of the Copyright Directive**

Last year European Union institutions agreed the Copyright Directive. The Directive will improve the way creators and those that invest in them are financially rewarded for the use of music online. The Government's support for the Directive has been very welcome. Without the Directive, creators will continue to get a raw deal as a result of Google-owned YouTube currently paying creators significantly less than the real value to them.

We support the need for a transitional phase once the UK leaves the EU at the end of January. However, given the Government's intention not to extend transition beyond the end of the year there is a danger that it will not be possible to transpose the Copyright Directive within the two-year implementation period.

We ask the Government to guarantee that the core principles of the Directive are reflected in UK copyright law by the end of 2020. The Government must set out a road map outlining how it intends to take the Directive and its key proposals forward. Failure to deliver these vital changes would mean the UK is out of step with its largest music market.

2. **A future trade agreement to support overseas tours**

UK Music  
Savoy Hill House  
7-10 Savoy Hill  
London, WC2R 0BU

T. 020 3713 8444  
info@ukmusic.org  
www.ukmusic.org

Our recent report, Music By Numbers, demonstrated that the music industry is worth £5.2 billion to the economy. To continue to build on this world leading success story artists and creators need to be able to tour internationally. This is however in jeopardy if a free trade agreement at the end of the Brexit transitional phase does not take into account the music industry's needs.

Leaving the European Union raises the possibility of UK touring artists' continued ability to move freely without extra costs and bureaucracy. The loss of freedom of movement on goods will also see the introduction of an expensive and time-consuming carnet system for musical equipment.

As part of discussions on a future free trade agreement with the EU, the Government must back plans for a single EU-wide live music "touring passport" to avoid burdensome new restrictions. Our future relationship with the European Union has historically been based on reciprocal cultural exchange and this needs to be secured by the end of the year.

**The clock is ticking and it is vital to the future success of the world-leading UK music industry that the Government now makes rapid progress on securing a trade deal and copyright protections.**

The Government and music industry has achieved much together over the past decade – copyright term extension, the Live Music Act, improved planning law for grassroots music venues and significant improvements in the secondary ticketing market to mention a few.

I firmly believe that the decade ahead offers even greater success and that if we focus on these issues that arise from leaving the European Union in the months ahead then we will collectively reap the benefits for years to come.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Kiehl  
Deputy CEO, UK Music

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'T' followed by the name 'Kiehl'.