



August 2020

2025 UK Border Strategy consultation

We welcome this consultation to develop the 2025 UK Border Strategy and ensure that Government and industry work in partnership together to deliver a world class border.

Our main concern relates to safeguarding the interests of touring musicians; in particular, it is key that customs officials are briefed on how to efficiently process touring musicians, their crew and their equipment at the border.

Our interests are twofold:

1. Enabling European musicians to tour in the United Kingdom based on the amended systems already available for non-visa nationals; we understand that European Union citizens are considered to be non-visa nationals. Whilst this route presents a simple way for a decision to be made on whether someone can enter the United Kingdom, it does not provide any certainty because ultimately it is at the discretion of the UK border official to assess whether the musician is qualified to perform in the United Kingdom.

UK border officials require clear guidelines on how to exercise their discretion to avoid any uncertainty; these guidelines need to be transparent and detailed; this would benefit UK border officials as well as touring musicians. We stress the need for a clear definition of musicians entering the United Kingdom. This also needs to include their crew. In addition to allowing touring musicians and their crew to enter the United Kingdom, these guidelines need to include provision for instruments and equipment; in order to avoid unnecessary bureaucracy there needs to be a very wide definition of equipment and instruments for touring musicians, e.g. some guitar players require several guitars for their concerts. The introduction of a complicated carnet-based system needs to be avoided to prevent unnecessary limitations on touring musicians, as well as imposing an additional avoidable workload on UK border officials

The United Kingdom is a prime destination for the production of music, offering globally recognised recording studios, composers and performers; our music producers are used by international musicians. Not only does this ensure there is a continued influx of talent into the United Kingdom, but it also creates employment opportunities within the United Kingdom for UK-based music producers, performers, engineers, music technicians etc.

2. In the context of the current trade negotiations between the United Kingdom and the European Union, we ask for reciprocity for UK musicians touring the European Union. We understand that this is outside the scope of this consultation.

We are at the disposal of Government to develop the necessary guidelines for UK border officials.

UK Music

UK Music is the umbrella body representing the interests of the commercial music industry across all the nations of the United Kingdom (see annex for full list of members). We campaign and lobby for the collective interests of the commercial music industry on behalf of artists, musicians, songwriters and composers, record labels, music publishers, studio producers, managers, and music licensing organisations. We strive to promote the extraordinarily successful commercial music sector across Wales, England, Scotland and Northern Ireland and support policies that drive growth and promote music to society.

Annex

UK Music's membership comprises: -

- AIM – The Association of Independent Music – the trade body for the independent music community, representing over 850 small and medium sized independent record labels and associated music businesses.
- BPI - the trade body of the recorded music industry representing 3 major record labels and over 300 independent record labels.
- FAC – The Featured Artists Coalition represents and promotes the interests of featured recording artists in the music industry.
- The Ivors Academy - The Ivors Academy is an independent association representing professional songwriters and composers. As champions of music creators for over 70 years, the organisation works to support, protect and celebrate music creators including its internationally respected Ivors Awards.
- MMF – Music Managers Forum - representing over 800 UK managers of artists, songwriters and producers across the music industry with global businesses.
- MPG - Music Producers Guild - representing and promoting the interests of all those involved in the production of recorded music – including producers, engineers, mixers, remixers, programmers and mastering engineers.
- MPA - Music Publishers Association - with 260 major and independent music publishers in membership, representing close to 4,000 catalogues across all genres of music.
- Musicians' Union - Representing over 32,000 musicians from all genres, both featured and non-featured.
- PPL is the music licensing company which works on behalf of over 100,000 record companies and performers to license recorded music played in public (at pubs, nightclubs, restaurants, shops, offices and many other business types) and broadcast (TV and radio) in the UK. PPL also collects royalties for members when their recorded music is played around the world through a network of international agreements with other collective management organisations (CMOs).
- PRS for Music is responsible for the collective licensing of rights in the musical works of 114,000 composers, songwriters and publishers and an international repertoire of 10 million songs.
- UK Live Music Group, representing of the live music sector with a membership consisting of: Agents' Association (AA), Association for Electronic Music (AFEM), Association of Festival Organisers (AFO), Association of Independent Festivals (AIF), Concert Promoters Association (CPA), International Live Music Conference (ILMC), National Arenas Association (NAA), Production Services Association (PSA), Music Venue Trust (MVT), with contributions from PRS Foundation, MU, MMF, FAC and BPI