

Research and Supporting Material Following Questions Posed to Parliament

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SUPPORT MATERIAL FOR MP QUESTIONS

The below is a table of Questions posed to MPs of Liverpool.

Within this document there are supported materials consisting of articles, studies and information relating to each question.

They can be found on the pages stated within this document.

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Question 1:

**When will the government timeframe ie Stage 4 and 5 of the roadmap,
When will the release of the £880m grants be published as The Royal Exchange Manchester,
The National Theatre and The Norwich Theatre Royal are in redundancy consultation NOW?
Release dates are crucial to save those jobs.**

- ❖ On 17th July 2020 the government announced:
"Indoor performances with socially distanced audiences will be able to take place across the country from 1 August."
- ❖ Jon Morgan, director of Theatres Trust *welcomed the news as "a step in the right direction"; he said, "For most theatres it will not be economically viable to reopen with 30-40% audience required under social distancing".* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-53442172>
- ❖ *While the recent announcement of government investment in the culture, heritage and arts sectors points to the possibility of support at some point in the future, without clarity about eligibility for this and a detailed timetable for the reopening of theatres, we are left with no option but to start the first stage of consultations with staff about the probability of over 50% redundancies," – Daniel Buckroyd Northcott Artistic Director*
- ❖ There is still no indication of stage 5 and many organisations cannot finically open during stage 3 and 4. Not all theatres can Re-Open with social distance measures – Will the funding help support social distance openings of organisations?

Examples:

The Globe – on announcing Step 3 still cannot open:

https://www.whatsonstage.com/london-theatre/news/shakespeares-globe-not-open-viable-pandemic_51946.html

Jackson Lane – on announcing Step 4 still cannot open:

https://scontent-lhr8-1.xx.fbcdn.net/v/t1.0-9/109912849_131161245328037_5721030857613757992_n.png?nc_cat=110&nc_sid=730e14&nc_ohc=4QDtAMW7GqIAX8I4be7&nc_ht=scontent-lhr8-1.xx&oh=31a871ca2a29ebda18848e34624e044f&oe=5F3CB691

- ❖ Release Date for Funding is important in order for forward planning. Redundancies have happened, are happening and will be continue to happen – this is also not including the 685,000 freelance workers within the sector. <https://uktheatre.org/theatre-industry/news/solt-uk-theatres-statement-in-response-to-the-publication-of-guidance-performing-arts-working-safely-during-coronavirus/>
- ❖ It is reported on the BBC "Oliver Dowden has acknowledged there will be further redundancies." <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-53302415> even with the announcement of the Rescue package.
- ❖ It should be noted the creative industry's freelance workers are not entitled to redundancy, and the freelancers leaving the industry will not figure in the redundancy statistics or any financial redundancy packages.

❖ News Articles on Redundancies – a selection of articles on redundancies

<https://www.thestage.co.uk/news/coronavirus-more-theatres-confirm-redundancies-as-casualties-mount> - theatre

<https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2020/jul/03/national-theatre-tells-casual-staff-they-will-lose-their-jobs> - theatre

<https://www.thestage.co.uk/news/exclusive-3000-theatres-jobs-at-risk-under-current-redundancy-plans> - theatre

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-53263793> - television

<https://completemusicupdate.com/article/aeg-announces-redundancies-and-other-cutbacks-as-covid-19-shutdown-continues/> - music

❖ Table of Redundancies from research in theatre:

Theatre	Percentage	No.of Jobs
The Traverse Theatre	40%	11
Southbank	60%	400
Birmingham Town Hall	50%	
Birmingham Symphony Hall	50%	
Birmingham Hippodrome		62
Exeter Northcott	50%	25 approx
Bristol Tobacco Factory Theatre	70%	10
Coventry's Belgrade Theatre	20%	21
National Theatre London		400 Casual staff (Foh & Boh)
Royal Opera House		ALL Casual Staff
Wales Millennium Centre		250
Horsecross Arts		168
Pitlochry Festival Theatre		42
Newcastle Theatre Royal		44
Oxford Playhouse		12
Worthing Theatres		86
Nimax Theatres		130 non-permanent
Theatre by the Lake	TBC	TBC

Question 2:

What will the criteria be for distribution of the £880m grants. How will it be ensured that they are distributed FAIRLY around the whole country to organisations and individuals. How will funding prevent a competition for livelihoods in theatre, music, comedy, dance, tv, film, radio, circus, festivals, youth work, and community engagement?

Question 5.

How will the £270m in repayable finance be underwritten and what is the repayment time frame for these loans?

Question 12.

What solution does the government have to preserve the sector in the devolved administrations, with Wales already announcing their £59m will NOT be spent on the arts?

❖ **Government Rescue Package –**

England: 880 million in grants for cultural organisations in England and 270 Million in repayable finance for cultural organisations in England.

Extra funding for the devolved Nations – The new funding will also mean an extra £188 million for the devolved administrations in Northern Ireland (£33 million), Scotland (£97 million) and Wales (£59 million).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/157-billion-investment-to-protect-britains-world-class-cultural-arts-and-heritage-institutions>

- ❖ "All departments will be affected, but those posts associated with putting on performances are those currently most at risk." Joanna Reid Artistic Director Belgrade
<https://www.thestage.co.uk/news/coronavirus-more-theatres-confirm-redundancies-as-casualties-mount>
- ❖ As of 20/07/2020, there is still **no clear criteria** or process to apply for the additional funding.
- ❖ In the press release it states "*Thousands of **organisations** across a range of sectors including the performing arts and theatres, heritage, historic palaces, museums, galleries, live music and independent cinema will be able to access emergency grants and loans.*"
- ❖ Is the funding criteria only for Institutions and Organisations or for Freelancers as well?
The Press Release talks of no support for the **685,000 freelance workers in the creative industries**, but rather the organisation. Oliver Dowden in an Interview, on Talk Radio, stated the funding was for "Protection for the institutions for this financial year and restore afterwards"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WayKlhiE1zEhttps://>
- ❖ Freelancers make up 50% of the whole creative industries workforce, with 70% in theatre. What will happen to the 685, 000 freelance workforce if funding is only for Organisations? SEISS is due to finish from 16th September 2020.
- ❖ It is repeatedly looking like the rescue package is to save the buildings and organisations rather than the freelance workforce who create and make the art.
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/jul/15/british-theatre-freelancers-protecting-artists>
(Opinion article from a theatre freelancer).
- ❖ The Welsh First Minister hasn't confirmed the money allocated to Arts in Wales by the Government will go to the art sector, according to the BBC *Earlier on Monday (6th July) a spokesman withdrew an earlier*

Welsh Government statement saying the money would help protect "significant numbers of jobs and livelihoods in Wales' cultural sector" <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-53304616>

- ❖ First Minister Mark Drakeford: "I want to wait until we see the whole package, then Cabinet will sit down, knowing how much money we have at our disposal, and attend to the many demands there are for help here in Wales, including help that is needed by the arts sector," he told the Welsh Government's daily press briefing. <https://www.leaderlive.co.uk/news/18564882.first-minister-refuses-commit-59m-wales-struggling-arts-sector/>

Question 3:

How will the Government monitor the distribution of the £880m grants to ensure that diversity in the Arts and the freelance workforce is maintained as the COVID crisis continues?

Question 7.

What extended financial support will there be for freelancers when SEISS and Furlough scheme finish as venues will still not be open or able to offer contracts of Employment?

- ❖ The Government SEISS covers a total of 6 months of Self Employed Wages in 2 instalments; 3x months at 80%, 3x months at 70%
The industry was forced to close on 16th March 2020, this is the start date when 100% self-employed Freelancers started to be impacted, so from the 16th September 2020 the support package ends rather than on the 23rd October as is stated on the Government website.
- ❖ It is worth noting not all freelancers would have been 100% Self Employed working a mixture of PAYE and Self Employed contracts. The 80% and 70% of wages for Self Employed does not necessarily equate to their whole monthly income as the PAYE income is not taken into consideration.
- ❖ If funding is for organisations only and not inclusive of Freelancers, and the organisations are not producing what happens to this workforce and who will be left in the industry to create the work once organisations start to produce work again?
- ❖ Diversity within the arts mainly comes from the freelance workforce:
- ❖ According to the Big Freelancers Survey: <https://freelancersmaketheatrework.com/study-routes-to-recovery/>
42% **D/deaf and disabled** workers reported as likely to leave the theatre industry.
Early Career workers are the most **ethnically diverse group**, they are also most likely to leave
Any recovery plan which fails to safeguard employment opportunities for freelancers will have a direct impact on the progress made in diversity and representation. Analysis of Arts Council Data revealed:
Freelancers constitute 86% of all people of colour employed by NPOs
- ❖ A stimulus package that is pointed at institutions without freelance conditioning will target money directly towards an 82% white identifying permanent workforce and away from the group which contains 86% of all people of colour working in NPOs. <https://www.thestage.co.uk/news/coronavirus-third-of-freelancers-considering-leaving-industry--report>
- ❖ A DCMS study in 2016, identified:
In 2015, 91.8 per cent of jobs in the Creative Economy were done by people in more advantaged socio-economic groups (NS-SEC 1-4), compared to 66.0 per cent of jobs in the wider UK economy. More advantaged groups made up 91.9 per cent of jobs in the Creative Industries.
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/534305/Focus_on_Employment_revised_040716.pdf
[Page 8](#)
How can less advanced socio-economic groups be supported in still working within the industry or supported to come back into the industry?

If no commitment to support freelancers within the industry how can the industry retain the skillset of freelancers and ensure a diverse work force for those who do not have other finances or resources to fall back on like those workers in the more advantaged socio economic groups?

Question 4:

Why do institutions and individuals have to prove “how they contributed to wider economic growth” (Oliver Dowden) to access rescue funds as this appears to be an attempt to exclude smaller provincial venues/artists and dismiss their valuable contribution to local economic growth?

- ❖ It is worrying to read Oliver Dowden saying “*institutions would have to apply through industry bodies and would be asked to prove how they **contributed to wider economic growth***”
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-53302415>

- ❖ **Wider economic growth:** What is meant by this and how can smaller companies and individuals prove their wider economic growth. What is the kind of art that will be created and on offer to the public?

- ❖ Not all art is about making money, but is part of a wider ecology about providing art and community engagement, through this **The Creative Industries contributed 111.7Bn to the UK economy in 2018**, accounting for 5.8% of UK GVA
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/863632/DCMS_Sectors_Economic_Estimates_GVA_2018.pdf PAGE 9.

- ❖ In comparison in the same year the **Hospitality Industry created 100 billion to the economy**
<https://www.conference-news.co.uk/news/hospitality-sector-generate-ps100bn-2018-industry-growth-6>

- ❖ It is worth noting the creative industries also support the economy indirectly through health and education, according to the Government **227.8 m is what the arts save the NHS on mental health services.**
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/446273/Health_and_educational_benefits_of_sport_and_culture.pdf

Question 8:

Will the Government give a commitment to finding a way to provide backdated financial support to those freelancers not eligible for furlough or SEISS?

Rishi Sunak: You have not been forgotten. We will not leave you behind. We are all in this together.

<https://twitter.com/RishiSunak/status/1243235450908803072>

- ❖ 3-5 million people across all industries have fallen through the gap of SEISS and Furlough.
<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/jun/15/more-than-a-million-left-out-of-coronavirus-income-support-say-mps>
- ❖ 1 in 3 of the freelance workforce received NO support from SEISS/CJRS,
1 in 4 of the freelance workforce have been unable to access emergency income of any kind
1 in 3 say they are likely to leave the industry (Big Freelancer Survey Results)
<https://freelancersmaketheatrework.com/study-routes-to-recovery/>
- ❖ The stage Reports 36 % performing arts freelancers have received no financial support since March 2020
<https://www.thestage.co.uk/news/news/coronavirus-third-of-freelancers-considering-leaving-industry-report>
- ❖ According to the Big Freelancers Survey *This, precocity is not evenly distributed. It spikes around D/deaf and disabled workers, workers of colour and emerging talent:*
51% D/deaf and disabled workers were ineligible for SEISS/CJRS
92% graduates were ineligible for SEISS/CJRS
1 in 3 have applied for universal credit: Only 1 in 5 received it.
- ❖ When will the 3 million people who have fallen through the gap be remembered?
When will they not be left behind?
When will they be in this together with the financial support provided to those on PAYE and SEISS?

Question 6.

Can the government provide or encourage companies to provide a personal insurance cover scheme for freelancers that would include Covid related illnesses?

Question 9.

In the event of a second spike and second lockdown will the Government commit to reinstating the furlough and SEISS support mechanisms?

Question 10.

Will coherent Government guidelines be published to ensure safe practice at work for backstage workers and artists that are acceptable to insurance companies when theatres are able to open properly?

Question 11.

Ultimately, where does the responsibility sit to guarantee that any productions or events are "Covid-Safe", is it licensing through the local authority, is it independent risk assessment and insurance, or is it PHE? The Government needs to provide clear guidance on this issue to reassure insurance underwriters so that venues can open.

Question 14.

Will a coronavirus cancellation insurance policy be put in place for the arts, including but not exclusive to theatre and live events, so that promoters and producers can continue to invest in the sector so that there is cover in place in the event of local lockdowns, etc?

- ❖ Reports from 20/07/2020 indicate some employers are holding furlough payments as collateral against staff returning to work and requiring repayment of furlough contributions in new contracts to protect themselves financially should there be a Covid outbreak on a show.
- ❖ They are also suggesting a freelancer contracted on a performance would be expected to take unpaid leave should they contract Covid during a show run.
https://www.thestage.co.uk/news/coronavirus-theatre-workers-being-asked-to-pay-back-furlough-contributions?fbclid=IwAR1xpot8lEr8tY--3rvsRvNP_TGhxONq4NdNOsTcPg67zspFu5iTo83wB8
- ❖ Will the government underwrite insurance? According to the Guardian, there was a *precedent for this kind of government support of insurers: in 1993, after a series of IRA bombings, claims were underwritten for terrorism-related damages. The French government has already approved a 50m Euro indemnity for film.* <https://www.theguardian.com/film/2020/jun/01/new-film-production-covid-uk-industry>
- ❖ *"Considerable risk remains for anyone committing funds to a production, along with the underlying threat of further local lockdowns. Crucially, this will all come down to the confidence of audiences, who must feel safe to return in the numbers needed to make up operating costs. The industry will also need government assurance that when we do reopen, insurance companies will protect us. Without either, the welcome news of reopening will leave us vulnerable."* - Richard Jordan in The Stage
<https://www.thestage.co.uk/opinion/the-return-of-indoor-venues-is-welcome-news-but-risk-remains>
- ❖ On the in May, leading event industry technical equipment and services provider White Light wrote an open letter to DCMS, which among other things highlighted the need for insurances to cover cancellations due to Covid for the event and live art industry:
<https://www.thestage.co.uk/news/coronavirus-live-events-suppliers-call-on-government-for-specialist-support>
- ❖ *"6. Support is needed for our customers (theatre producers, music promoters, event organisers, broadcasters, venues, etc.) to produce more 'content' (that we can then supply) – they need tax relief on their set up costs, (e.g. increase Theatre Tax Relief to 50%) they need assistance with insurance (e.g. offer*

cancellation insurance if productions have to cancel as a result of a second wave of COVID-19). We need to ensure that any help to producers, etc. encourages them to produce more shows. Another suggestion is to remove VAT from ticket revenue.” <https://www.thestage.co.uk/news/coronavirus-live-events-suppliers-call-on-government-for-specialist-support>

Question 13.

As a Freelance Task-force focussed on supporting the freelance arts sectors of Merseyside, how can we with the support of local MPs and local council secure the future of our industry and the substantial income that it brings to this region?

- ❖ Liverpool is a city renowned for its cultural offer which is worth around £3.3bn to the local economy and supports 38,000 jobs.
<https://liverpoolexpress.co.uk/vital-funding-for-cultural-sector/>
- ❖ Major Arts Organisations funded by the city bring in £32 Million to the Liverpool City Region and support over a thousand Jobs – this figure doesn't include jobs or monies generated from other funding.
- ❖ Wider LCR arts Organisations brings in additional tens of millions into the City Region with an excess of 60million GVA
<https://moderngov.merseytravel.gov.uk/documents/s32408/Item%206%20-%20Appendix%20One.pdf>

Additional Research Material:

Equity - Actors and Stage Management Union

<https://www.equity.org.uk/news/2020/july/equity-statement-on-the-chancellors-plan-for-jobs/>

Bectu - Technician and Venue Staff Union

<https://bectu.org.uk/news/indoor-theatre-performances-pass-highlights-urgent-need-for-funding-answers-says-bectu/>

Music Union

<https://www.musiciansunion.org.uk/Home/News/2020/Jul/Indoor-Performances-May-Return-From-1-August>

Unite union - Venue staff union if not in Bectu

<https://unitetheunion.org/>

Excluded UK

<https://www.excludeduk.org/about>

UK Theatre Organisation

<https://uktheatre.org/who-we-are-what-we-do/about-uk-theatre/>