

202100200866 11 May 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: Tue 11/05/2021 09:55

To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>

Subject: LIVE MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT

Hi,

We are trying to find information on when the pubs can start having live music (bands etc.) playing again along with things like quizzes etc? We are based in Scotland obviously so was wondering if you could shed any light on this matter?

Any information would be appreciated.

Thanks,

[redacted]

202100200386 11 May 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tue 11/05/2021 10:16
To: Public Engagement Unit <CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>
Subject: Social Distancing in Theatre

Dear Fiona,

Congratulations on being re-elected, your win is well deserved.

I write to you in your role as Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work and Culture. Thank you for taking the time to read and consider this urgent letter.

Social Distancing in Theatres

I am aware that you are under some pressure to reduce the 2m social distancing requirement in theatre, and that these calls are being led by the venues and producers of theatre. I can see (from social media and the mainstream media) that these calls are both for Scotland's permanent venues, and specifically for the Fringe.

As you know, theatre staffing is made up of 70% freelancers, and it is important that you know that these calls are not coming from the freelance community of theatre workers.

We are not asking for them.

We are the ones whose safety at work will be compromised by these changes, should they happen.

We are the people that are will be on the front line of dealing with audiences, and working in situations that put us at risk if the 2m distancing is reduced to 1m. We know from the science that reducing 2m to 1m distancing significantly more than doubles the chance of Covid being passed on.

Comparisons with Hospitality

It is also clear that the argument that is repeated being made, that theatre audiences are somehow comparable with hospitality is not the case: in hospitality people tend to visit in small groups consisting of a limited number of households (in line with Scottish Government guidelines). Theatre audiences are unlimited numbers of households, from much further afield (including London, other areas of England and international visitors too) and it is simply not comparable.

I understand that the 'music during hospitality' live performance rules can be arguable change (I'm thinking of Eden Court's outside venue, as an example) as that is truly hospitality with music. But for theatre indoors: please consider the freelancers, who do not have a voice in this conversation. We rely on the Government guidelines to keep us safe.

Indoor Venues and Safety

The safety of indoor venues relies on many things, and 2m distancing needs to be protected. Many of the other factors are unreliable: air conditioning in theatres regularly fails, or is programmed incorrectly (I've spent 20 years in technical rehearsals and performances and can vouch for this) and so if you remove air conditioning from the delicate equation of Covid-safety, and add 1m distancing... the scales tip swiftly and dangerously in the wrong direction.

Air conditioning in Fringe venues is even worse: the temporary units do not provide adequate air flow for the required Covid-refresh rate, and being temporary units, they are also prone to failure.

We know the inaccuracy on lateral flow tests. Plus, there are some venues whose method statements test their freelancers less often than the venue staff.

We know that people have caught Covid in theatre rehearsals, and we know the devastating consequences of this.

We know that freelancers are put under pressure to cut corners and 'just get the show on'. Some of the people calling for this 'relaxation' are those who allow that to happen to their freelancers.

The pressure is added to by the cultural pressure of the 'back to normal' changes south of the border, and the test events happening in England. But with the NHS preparing itself across the UK for a potential next wave, it is the right thing to do to put people first.

Safety of Theatre Workers in Scotland

And so, I write to ask: please do not bow to pressure and change this. 2m distancing is working in theatres in England and Wales successfully. You are being asked to change the rights of theatre workers in order to fit an economic model.

Throughout the pandemic, Scotland has led the UK to put the safety of its people first. Before economics. The SNP has led Scotland safely through this: because people are important.

Please stand for your theatre freelancers as you have stood for all people in Scotland.

The 70% of theatre professionals don't have a voice to change this. You do. Please stand for us.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

202100200681 11 May 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: Tue 11/05/2021 12:55

To: Public Engagement Unit <CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>

Subject: Indoor live music in public houses

Hi,

I have extensively looked at the levels and can't find the info regarding the level at which live music in pubs is allowed. Could you kindly clarify when this is please, Kind regards, [redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

202100200740 11 May 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tue 11/05/2021 20:55
To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>
Subject: Return Of Live Events

To Whom it may concern

With the relaxation of restrictions in Scotland from Monday 17th May there has been no information updates in regards to live Music within the Hospitality industry.

We have had enquiries from Pub & Bar owners from across Scotland asking if we can provide DJs &/Or Bands. I have been unable to provide answers to these inquiries due to lack of information.

So my questions is,

Can we provide Pubs & Bars with Djs and Bands as From Monday 17th May 2021?

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Kind Regards
[redacted]

202100201049 12 May 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wed 12/05/2021 07:46
To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>
Subject: Request for information – Cultural Institute

Dear Scottish Government,
I would like to know if there is a Scottish cultural institute in Italy.
Thanks for your cooperation. [redacted]

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[redacted]

[redacted]

202100201475 13 May 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: 13 May 2021 13:54
To: Public Engagement Unit <CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>
Subject: Covid regulations affecting youth orchestras

Hello,

I am a trustee of [redacted]. Naturally the youth orchestra has been unable to meet physically for well over a year now and we are very keen to get going again. With the best will in the world Zoom cannot substitute for actual rehearsals.

The [redacted] trustees understand that restrictions have been and continue to be necessary and appropriate. However we also understand that the restrictions are once again changing and relaxing. We have tried to see how the latest proposed relaxations will affect us, but are in some difficulty in doing so. I wonder if you might be able to give us a definitive explanation to enable us to plan.

The youth orchestra consists of about [redacted] youngsters from about 10 years of age to 17 and 18 year olds. There is a mixture of string, wind and percussion players. There are approximately [redacted] helpers/tutors. We must meet indoors as outdoor playing is very problematic.

I would be most grateful if you could give me guidance as to when it might be possible for the orchestra to meet physically for rehearsals.

Sincerely,
[redacted]

202100201648 13 May 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thu 13/05/2021 11:50
To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>
Subject: Culture/workshop guidance query

Hi, can my query below be forwarded to someone in culture to answer my question please.

Thank you

[redacted]

Hello,

I'm just wondering if you may know someone that deals with shared workspaces guidance! There doesn't seem to be any update for level 2! This might be the case that there are no changes, however, with my tutoring workshops starting mid June with another ten artists at [redacted], it would be helpful if there is any easing on current level 3 guidance!

Any idea who might be best to contact!

This means that, in accordance with the relevant level restrictions, you can host workshops in your house in accordance with the following:

1. for you, and the artist, your house is a 'studio' and you should apply the [creative studios and shared workspaces guidance](#) to your activities.
2. the workshops delivered contain education/training and you should be mindful of the [guidance for the community learning and development sector](#).
3. any workshops lacking an element of education/training follow the [organised activities for children](#) model (currently only permitted in levels 2 and 3 for under 18s only).
4. You maintain COVID-19 control measures to in order to mitigate the spread of the virus.

Kind regards

[redacted]

202100202570 14 May 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, May 14, 2021 7:43:30 PM
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Subject: Level 2 Hospitality & Entertainment Restrictions

Dear Nicola

Firstly my sincere thanks and utmost respect for how you are leading Scotland through these horrible times. I am very thankful you are still at the helm post-election.

I'm sure the last thing you need right now is yet another question, however I would appreciate some clarity on the present situation within the Hospitality and Entertainment sectors, particularly with regards to live music. As a professional solo musician/singer who works mainly in hotels and pubs, I have not worked since 20th March 2020. Like everyone else, I am eager to get back to work but only when it is both safe and permissible to do so. Although I live in [redacted], I travel throughout Scotland to perform. My understanding is that this is still not an option while we are in Level 2. There seems to be some confusion with venues as regards the difference between 'an event' and 'live music'. Again, my understanding is that a 'small event' as allowed in Level 2, still does not permit live music? I guess as performers, we are waiting to hear the actual words 'live music' listed as something allowed in a particular level. Indeed, at the moment, it is not at all clear if live music will be allowed in Level 1. I was motivated to write this evening as I had noticed that The [redacted], one of my venues, is advertising live music for Saturday 22nd May. While I support [redacted] and all venues and musicians in getting back to work as soon as possible, I have to do so with an element of resentment if like them I am in Level 2 but under the impression that I am not allowed to work.

Can you please offer some clarity on this? It would be greatly appreciated.

Kind Regards
[redacted]

202100203475 17 May 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: Mon 17/05/2021 22:05

To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>

Subject: live music

Hi Nicola,

I know you are busy with all matters ,all I am asking is when at the earliest will live music be allowed in hotels/bars etc.

I do support all you have done and continue to do for scotland during covid ,something you should be proud off,keep going make scotland proud.

kind regards

[redacted]

202100202870 17 May 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: 17 May 2021 [scanned letter]
To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>
Subject: Level 2 Guidelines

Hi, can you please confirm what the rules are for the following:

1. Is live music allowed in social & bowling clubs.
2. Can we have a meeting indoors in our club with more than 6 people attending e.g. an AGM

I have checked the web site, but I am still unclear as to what the position is on these points.

Kind Regards

[redacted]
Club Secretary

202100204143 18 May 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: Tue 18/05/2021 17:36

To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>

Subject: Theatre, venue night club trials for Scotland

If England got a trial for these why don't we ? I think it's ludicrous that again they get to trial for events like the brits happened with a live audience and a nightclub trial in Liverpool....where was any of that for us in Scotland? What's the point in these test trials if you have no intention giving us these kind of events back?

We miss our concerts night clubs and theatre so so much we've been deprived of them enough gigs ate being advertised fir summer.....but no doubt you'll stop them.too

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202100202925 18 May 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: 18 May 2021 09:51

To: Hyslop F (Fiona), MSP <Fiona.Hyslop.msp@parliament.scot>

Subject: Regarding Live Music Outdoors

I am contacting you on behalf of the [redacted]. We are a group of senior citizens who have an interest in live music which helps our well being and mental health. Prior to Covid we use to meet at various indoor venues on the afternoon of the first Friday in the month for chat and to play live music. We also ran charitable events. At our last event in March 2020 around 200 members attended. Now that we are at level 2 we are looking at the possibility of running an outdoor live music event in a beer garden. Seating would be arranged by the publican. As it is not clear from government websites whether this would be permitted we are looking for some clarification.

We are all of a certain age which means we have all had two vaccinations.

I look forward to hearing from you. I would also appreciate it if you can advise us of the current situation regarding live music indoors?

Regards

[redacted]

202100204092 18 May 2021

From: [redacted]
Date: Tue, 18 May 2021, 16:58
Subject: Easing of lockdown
To: <Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>
Subject: Easing of lockdown

Dear first minister (Nicola),

I have always been a supporter of you and your party and think you have done a great job through the pandemic in difficult circumstances. So firstly, thank you.

I was hoping that you could clarify some details with the easing of lockdown. Under teir 2 it states that music venus can open. Can you clarify what a music venue is? My thought are that a music venue is any location used for a concert or musical performance which range in size and location from a small coffee house for music shows, an outdoor bandstand, a concert hall or a football stadium.

I am asking this as I have been a person who has stuck with the rules since the pandemic began and have not been out. I was looking forward to going to a small local pub near me this weekend who had live music advertised. The pub had checked with the [redacted] licensing board and they had advised what the capacity would be, masks when moving around, table service and no dancing. Tables had to be booked. I have just been advised that this can no longer go ahead. A different person from the same licencing board had advised that this guidance has now changed and it can no longer go ahead.

I am so confused. I understand the need for the gradual easing of restrictions and why it is important. It just seems like different authorities have different ideas of what the rules mean.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and I look forward to hearing from you.

[redacted]

202100204181 19 May 2021

Sent: Wed 19/05/2021 13:12

From: [redacted]

To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>

Subject: Re: Your recent correspondence with Scottish Government and partner agencies – 202100202870

This does not answer the question I asked.

Are clubs allowed to have an artist/band that provides live entertainment?

If not, can you point me to the relevant rule in Level 2 that forbids it.

[redacted]

202100205086 20 May 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: 20 May 2021 13:20

To: Public Engagement Unit <CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>

Subject: Re: Your recent correspondence with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202100204250

Hi,

Thank you for the response. Unfortunately, the information you directed me to is contradictory in places and very confusing. It's especially hard to understand when conflicting information has previously been provided by The Scottish Government's Directorate for Culture, Tourism and Major Events (please see the attached letter dated May 4th 2021).

Rather than redirecting me to online information which seems to have multiple ways of being interpreted, I'd really appreciate it if you would please answer the following questions along with the reasons for your answers. This will make it much clearer for venues and entertainers to know what the law is and how to make sure they adhere to same.

1. Is a hotel, restaurant, pub or social club with a dedicated performance stage considered to be a hospitality venue or a music venue?
2. Is a dedicated entertainment venue within a holiday park setting considered to be a hospitality venue or a music venue?
3. At what level will live entertainment be permitted in hospitality venues?
4. In hospitality venues, is outdoor live entertainment permitted at Level 2, Level 1, Level 0 or not at all?

Your answers will help to clear up what is an extremely confusing situation.

Thank you in advance for any assistance and clarity you can provide.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

202100204949 20 May 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: 20 May 2021 13:20

To: Public Engagement Unit <CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>

Subject: Re: Your recent correspondence with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202100204250

Thank you for your correspondence so please could you tell me in your honest opinion and that of the governments can you say whether music even in small venues will ever be played again this year because as I have said all that we are looking for is some sort of clarity it's either going to happen or its not going to happen rather than not knowing and getting answers one way or another and with the constant lack of information one way or another we can't plan for the future I've lost £30/000 and counting and no help with financial assistance am I as well just getting rid of my equipment because I don't see any positive outcome on this current situation the government should just come out and tell us that there will be no music allowed inside venues for the remainder of the year because that's the way it is heading I'm sorry if someparts of this email seems negative but hopefully you can see my reason for some negativity in the email I'm now waiting for an appointment to seek phsycoligist help because this is something that I have done for the last 46years and I have never had a definitive answer at least can they give us a date/month I really appreciate your help and support hopefully in the next email you can give me a reply that will fill me with positivity&joyfullness

202100204457 20 May 2021

From: [redacted]

Thu 20/05/2021 09:57

Subject: RE: Your recent correspondence with Scottish Government and partner agencies – 202100134449

To: Kate Forbes <kate.forbes.msp@parliament.scot>; Public Engagement Unit <CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Finance <CabSecFinance@gov.scot>

Good morning Kate, Donald

Hope you are both well

Now the election is done and I see Kate – you have continued your role, congratulations! Can I return back to my correspondence prior to this time?

I spoke with [redacted] as per your suggestion Kate, but still haven't heard back from him.

Further to this, I have spoken to a number of stations within Scotland – 4 of which didn't even know they were able to deal with the Republic of Media on the health advice drive.

After a little bit of investigation work it does appear a large portion of these stations are overlooked because of the commercial stations which I believe are also paid a higher rate. As stated before, these would be run by the [redacted] company or [redacted], both of which are multi million pound international companies which I'd assume gets put into the system and run through the corporate machine – never to be seen by the local community again. If these community stations received this advertising income like we have (we dont have competition for air space here) you would probly see the knock on effect of that revenue being ploughed into the communities directly, opposed to the large Bauer awards ceremony that happens annually and large wages of their top presenters/minor celebrities.

On the subject of funding, I appreciate its always been said 'its not a devolved power' but as ive suggested does it really need to be written down to be able to assist an entire sector?

I'll assume now with things opening back up and the Covid situation developing, the national advertising budget which to be honest has been amazing and very critical to our survival – is going to be reduced again?

I would also assume with things being open, the vast amounts that goto Ski Centres for example will be reduced or are they still swallowing money, I dread to think how much has been ploughed into the broken venue at the cairngorms and still isn't fixed?

The common figures that have come from other stations is still around the £25,000 mark. If, somewhere within your budgeting you could scrape £750,000 which looking at the figures that get thrown about in the news, isn't all that much, that would sustain 30 community stations at £25,000 each. I believe there are 28 in Scotland. All of which have worked tirelessly throughout Covid to support their communities 24/7.

If I remember rightly – £750,000 would be the equivalent of 4 months running for 2 Ski centres which were funded last year, opposed to 30 community focused outlets across Scotland AND £50,000 change.

The stations I have spoken to are aware of my conversations, if they approached this subject through their own MSP in turn making a larger 'voice' on the matter would this be taken into consideration as I feel I still haven't got any firm answers on this matter.

Kind Regards
[redacted]

202100205806 21 May 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: 21 May 2021 15:56

To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>

Subject: Re: Your recent correspondence with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202100204949

I'm sorry for bothering you again but my question is cinemas concert halls are being opened up at level 2 will the artists performers be allowed to sing and will music be allowed to be played in venues whilst this performance is going on and at what levels will the volume of music be played at will there be decebelometers in place to restrict the volume of which level it can be played to the audience because as is stated in the appendix section of live music in venues of pubs excetra who is going to check that members of the audience can speak&hear each other without having to shout to each other this seems so unfair to me as the same situation could apply to even the pubs that could have decebelometers installed to accommodate them it should be the same rules for all venues theatres/concert halls/cinemas/even pubs should be allowed to play music at a restricted volume please explain to me what the difference is between the aforementioned venues and a pub that can accommodate people safely with 2metres social distancing in place and music playing at a restricted volume and if you reply with the comment about alcohol coming into affect with people in a pub and the raising of voices then this rule should apply to all the venues that are allowed to sell alcohol cinemas excetra then there should be a total ban on the sale of alcohol in all the premises that are listed in the level 2 to reopen and provide entertainment because clearly there is double standards in play no one has fought harder than me to try and get answers to the questions that we need and I'd be grateful if you could mention this on your next reply to me something along the lines of dear [redacted] we really appreciate how hard you are striving to get answers on behalf of the entertainment industry and fighting there/your business followed by your answer thank you very much for your help and support

202100206269 24 May 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: 24 May 2021 09:19
To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>
Subject: Amateur arts return pantos this year

Enough is enough....all over the UK in England people are allowed to sing ..we aren't that's only because you are still living in fear. Our theatres and venues have had doors closed for a year plus its actually heartbreaking to drive past or walk passed them now.....it hurts nothing in them nothing because YOU won't let them open and all this rubbish about less people backstage I'm sorry all these shows weather its professional or amateur need the help NEED people everything needs people to help so enough of this crap of oh some theatres are too small to have loads of people well im sorry what did we do before tell me that?....I'm in [redacted] I do panto every year and your really telling me your going to begrudge us two years in a row without having a panto at Xmas?..... to bring joy and happiness to so many people....and what are you going to say to the audience...no joining in no singing..... to all the people and particularly younger generation who miss doing shows etc its a disgrace you've not allowed this to continue for people's mental health too every single business is OK apart from theatres concerts music venues and night clubs...sorry enough is enough the way you've handled the arts and guidance has been nothing short of disgraceful and disgusting next to no mention in updates oh but sport gets a mention doesn't it oh yes and that was allowed to go ahead but can you see people sitting in a theatre behaving like those absolute selfish rangers fans? I don't think so

Finally I really miss travelling from [redacted] to Glasgow or Edinburgh for a gig I have tickets this year for genesis ans I dint even know yet if its going to go ahead every time something gets changed yet again it's like will it ever happen I just think the whole thing with the arts in Scotland both professional and amateur and lack of support and guidance has been ridiculous this is people's jobs and livelihood we are talking about here. I need these things for my mental health I really do or else if I go without two years of them....without going to a rehearsal or going to a theatre or a gig ...I honestly don't know what's the point in life anymore if we can't do those things..we can sit in a cinema now why not a theatre and why can't some thing be said about amateurs getting back to rehearsal I think the no singing thing and certain no playing of musical instruments has gone on way enough now

So I'm asking you I'm BEGGING YOU
please.please please PLEASE

give these things back to us
[redacted]

202100206073 24 May 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: Mon 24/05/2021 12:25
To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>
Subject: Theatres venues reopening

And to add to that all you hear in England is theatres are re opening in July etc yiu cannot keep them I'm scotland closed any longer yiu just can't it isn't fair at all and you can't keep us from singing and enjoying ourselves again not fair not just people's enjoyment but their career their jobs have you even given that one bit of thought

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202100206293 24 May 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: 24 May 2021 15:47

To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>

Subject: Covid rules re open gallery at home.

I live in [redacted]. I would like to invite some local people to an outside exhibition of artworks over the bank holiday in an outdoor location under a porch. I would also like to offer light refreshments. They would be requested to wear masks, sanitise hands and social distance. Is this permissible? Is there a limit to numbers and households etc?

Many thanks for guidance in this matter.

[redacted]

202100208628 26 May 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: 26 May 2021 10:02

To: Forbes K (Kate), MSP <Kate.Forbes.msp@parliament.scot>

Subject:

Dear Kate Forbes,

I'm writing to ask if you would you please save [redacted], by including it, and ALL Scottish music studios for Rates Relief to businesses affected by Covid -19?

[redacted] is a vibrant and welcoming community hub for musicians of all levels, from first bands to under-the-radar stars getting a few hours' practice before SSE Hydro shows.

We all come here for the same reason: [redacted] love and care for the music scene is second to none. The 40-year-old studio goes the extra mile for every single musician who uses it, whether that's rehearsal rates pushed as low as possible, breakable hire at no cost, free coffee for recording sessions, and attentive, friendly staff.

[redacted] Café (part of the [redacted] premises) provides homemade food and work experience opportunities for the community – including kids from The Princes Trust, who get a boost in confidence and some free hot lunches while helping out and serving customers.

Before Coronavirus, [redacted] was packed with bands and café customers from 9am until midnight 7 days a week. Now after a financially brutal, winter-long lockdown [redacted's] earnings are still severely reduced by the pandemic, and the limits imposed by the Tier System to prevent the spread of the virus. [redacted] has also invested a lot of its restricted income into professional deep cleaning, hand gel dispensers, disinfectant products, a high-heat washing machine for sterilising microphones, buying dozens of additional microphones, and many other upgrades to help keep customers safe.

During this pandemic Music Studios have consistently fallen through the cracks of Financial Aid and Relief for Covid-19. Studios are a vital part of the music & entertainment business ecosystem. [Redacted] (a popular rehearsal and recording location for many touring and international bands) was forced to close just 2 months into the pandemic due to lack of financial aid. When studios are forced to close in this time of financial hardship, owners are left destitute. Bands and musicians lose the rehearsal spaces vital to salvaging our own incomes, which will likely be affected by the virus for a long time to come. The impact on the music scene as a whole is disastrous.

Kate Forbes I'm asking you, Scotland's Cabinet Secretary for Finance:

Will you please save our Music Studios including [redacted] by giving them Rates Relief along with other businesses?

Looking forward to your reply,

Best wishes

[redacted]

202100206994 26 May 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wed 26/05/2021 13:09
To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>
Subject: Re the festival theatre

Hi Good afternoon I was just wondering if we can get the festival Theatre in the Kings Theatre back please I'm getting sick and tired of waiting can you text me back or email please thank you for your confidence from [redacted] Sent from my iPhone

202100207677 27 May 2021

Sent: Thu 27/05/2021 09:51

From: [redacted]

To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>

Subject: FAO: Cabinet Secretary and Minister for Culture

Dear Cabinet Secretary and Minister,

I am currently writing an article for the [redacted] on the issue of the two-metre physical distancing rule for audiences in Scottish theatres. I would be grateful if either of you, or a spokesperson on your behalf, could send me, at your earliest convenience, a short statement explaining the reasoning for the two-metre rule in Scotland and why two metres was decided upon by the Scottish Government, rather than the one metre that applies to theatres in England.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

202100207983 27 May 2021

Sent: Thu 27/05/2021 22:44

From: [redacted]

To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>

Subject: Scottish cultural centre in Paris

Hello,

I'd just like to say, there has been an Irish cultural centre in Paris for a long time now, which is on the Rue des irlandais, but Rue d'ecosse is a cul de sac. Isn't it time to make it a destination?

202100210251 1 June 2021

Sent: Tue 01/06/2021 10:08

From: [redacted]

To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>

Subject: Ref: Collaboration/Support in setting up a pop-up Art Gallery/Mental health Community hub.

Dear Kevin

I hope you are well?

My name is [redacted]

I am a content creator and art director.

I am working with an established Edinburgh based Artist, [redacted]

Please find a link to her recent online RSA show: [redacted]

I am writing to you to express my interest in having the opportunity to discuss my proposal regarding the temporary use of [redacted] street level, Edinburgh.(un used)

The intention is to approach the present landlord ([redacted]) with the proposal to use this space as a 'pop-up' art Gallery and community mental health safe-space.

What I am seeking from you and the council is supporting through funding/legal and legitimacy when approaching Landlords.

The Artist would contribute towards the rent through donation and money made through opening night shows.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding this subject and any advice you can give regarding this project.

Best regards

[redacted]

202100208659 02 June 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wed 02/06/2021 09:27
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Subject: Nightclubs

Hi

In which level will nightclubs open again? I can't find any information on the government website.

Thanks

[redacted]

202100215091 02 June 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: 2 June 2021

To: Public Engagement Unit <CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>

Subject: Cultural enquiry from [redacted]

Hello Mr Robertson, I am greatly concerned about the recent proposals for [redacted] to take over various BBC Scotland assets including the studios at [redacted] and [redacted].

Firstly if the BBC moves to a more commercial operator what does that mean politically for a future independent Scotland. Secondly how do we ensure the work and revenue stays in Scotland. How can we prevent lift and shift and brass plating and crews being brought up from out with Scotland (and as a consequence the income being taken away with them as well)

I genuinely fear that this sort of a move could decimate the industry in Scotland and I would hate to see that happen.

I am very happy to discuss this via email or phone if it would help but I hope as culture secretary you're able to provide support or intervene to ensure this disastrous outcome does not come to pass.

[redacted]

202100211246 2 June 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thu 03/06/2021 08:09
To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Hospitality – Live Entertainment

Sent from my Huawei phone

To whom it may concern

Can you please advise what level 1 covid restrictions mean for live acts/singers/entertainment/karaoke in hospitality venues such as pubs/social clubs/hotels?

The only guidance available that I can see public and background noise etc relates to level 2 areas.

Will there be updated guidance published?

Best regards

[redacted]

Sent from my Huawei phone

202100221508 7 June 2021

From: [redacted]
To: Central Enquiry Unit CEU@gov.scot
Sent: Wed 07/07/2021 13:53
Subject: Small arts festivals

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

We have been contacted by a small arts festival in [redacted] who are seeking clarity over apparent anomalies with the hosting of events.

The group has a robust plan in place to ensure that its events are held in a safe and controlled manner. The risks associated with holding small, carefully-planned concerts are clearly minimal compared with those associated with the hospitality industry and sporting events, where scenes broadcast in recent days include celebratory singing and hugging and uncontrolled flouting of guidelines.

Please can you explain these anomalies, given they wish to host an event on the 19 July?

Best,
[redacted]

202100212643 7 June 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: Monday, June 7, 2021 12:03:19 PM

To: Robison S (Shona), MSP <Shona.Robison.msp@parliament.scot>

Subject: Community Choirs and Covid 19 rules

[redacted], who were invited to exhibit in [redacted] and meeting with much approval by all, is an organisation consisting of retired people which offers many activities to the mutual benefit of all members.

It is well documented that socially, mentally and physically stimulating activities benefit older people in particular. Such activities are often recommended by medical experts, encouraged by the Scottish Executive. Mental stimulation improves function, and delays cognitive problems. Exercise likewise improves circulation, heart and lung health and reduces blood pressure and social networks support coping strategies reducing isolation, anxiety and depression. Communal singing accomplishes all of the above.

Members have been restricted for many months while they comply with advice on Covid 19 in a responsible manner. While most have avoided Covid infection, it has been detrimental to their health in other ways by confining them and reducing social networks.

Members are vaccinated and in addition, are happy to take regular Covid tests. It therefore appears to be blatantly unfair that while eg., sixteen [redacted] members may not meet to sing, play stringed instruments, chat and generally socialise outside and distanced, six thousand supporters per day over a months duration have been granted permission to meet in Glasgow Green to celebrate a game of kicking a bag of wind around a field, where they will drink alcohol, litter, vociferously chant, sing and all else for which football crowds are known. Similarly, Hampden will be open to many more.

While football is a populist and well supported pursuit, smaller activities groups and minorities go unheard and their needs may be easier to ignore. Previous law defying celebrations, demonstrations and flash mobs have been tolerated in such a way as to smack of double standards while the needs of older people are ignored.

As a [redacted] member and as a private individual with many interest outwith the [redacted], I request that the Scottish Executive act with fairness and equity and review this farcical and poorly thought through situation which appears to be thinly veiled ageism.

Two obvious courses of action are open to the Executive:

1. Cancel the Glasgow Green celebrations and Hampden crowds.
2. Relax the rules to allow small numbers of responsible, law abiding seniors to proceed with the harmless and healthy pursuit of communal singing, playing instruments or simply socialising and the Executive thereby would comply with the principles of equality and fairness.

I would appreciate your timeous reply.

Yours sincerely [redacted]

202100212842 7 June 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: Monday, June 7, 2021 12:13:00 PM

To: Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP <Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>

Subject: Community Choirs and Covid 19 rules

Dear Nicola Sturgeon

Re: Community Choirs

[redacted], who were previously invited to exhibit in [redacted] and meeting with much approval by all, is an organisation consisting of retired people which offers many activities to the mutual benefit of all members.

It is well documented that socially, mentally and physically stimulating activities benefit older people in particular. Such activities are often recommended by medical experts, encouraged by the Scottish Executive. Mental stimulation improves function, and delays cognitive problems. Exercise likewise improves circulation, heart and lung health and reduces blood pressure and social networks support coping strategies reducing isolation, anxiety and depression. Communal singing accomplishes all of the above.

Members of the older community have been restricted for many months while they comply with advice on Covid 19 in a responsible manner. While most have avoided Covid infection, it has been detrimental to their health in other ways by confining them and reducing social networks.

Members are vaccinated and in addition, are happy to take regular Covid tests. It therefore appears to be blatantly unfair that while eg., sixteen [redacted] members may not meet to sing, play stringed instruments (without an audience), chat and generally socialise outside and distanced, six thousand supporters per day over a months duration have been granted permission to meet in Glasgow Green to celebrate a game of kicking a bag of wind around a field, where they will drink alcohol, litter, vociferously chant, sing and all else for which football crowds are known. Similarly, Hampden will be open to many more.

While football is a populist and well supported pursuit, smaller activities groups and minorities go unheard and their needs may be easier to ignore. Previous law defying celebrations, demonstrations and flash mobs have been tolerated in such a way as to smack of double standards while the needs of older people are ignored.

As a [redacted] member and as a private individual with many interest outwith the [redacted], I request that the Scottish Executive act with fairness and equity and review this farcical and poorly thought through situation which appears to be thinly veiled ageism.

Two obvious courses of action are open to the Executive:

1. Cancel the Glasgow Green celebrations and Hampden crowds.
2. Relax the rules to allow small numbers of responsible, law abiding seniors to proceed with the harmless and healthy pursuit of communal singing, playing instruments or simply socialising and the Executive thereby would comply with the principles of equality and fairness.

I would appreciate your timeous reply.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

202100212056 08 June 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: 08 June 2021 15:13

To: Covid19 Outbreak Management <Covid19OutbreakManagement@gov.scot>

Subject: Level 1 Restrictions for small volunteer clubs

Hi,

Despite reading through the Scot gov web pages, contacting OSCR who were unable to help, and trying to contact the Argyll and Bute MSP office in Dunoon whose phone number no longer exists, I am none the wiser about how many people from different households are permitted to meet for small, leisure activity clubs who own their property. Either currently under level 1 or in the future under level 0.

We are a 20 member photography club in [redacted], with our own premises, and a registered charity. There is no advice forthcoming from the Scottish Photographic Federation either. The problem is your guidance is very ambiguous for indoor meetings depending on what way we are classified. We do not operate a programme from May to August, but it would be useful if under Level 1 our small committee could meet, or a small group of up to 6 people could meet at the club once a week for editing and printing instruction, etc.

All of our members are over 50 and have had two vaccinations. Any advice to avoid confusion would help.

Many thanks,

[redacted]

202100212749 08 June 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tue 08/06/2021 15:27
To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>
Subject: Message to Jenny Gilruth

Dear Minister,

I am the [redacted] of the [redacted].

We take place after much effort and difficulty in [redacted], and I was eagerly awaiting the announcement promised 'ahead' of 7 June yesterday about social distancing at events and venues, as promised on the government's own website. Without this we cannot issue tickets to our events.

That announcement has not been made, nor has any update been given to say when it will be given. Given that the implications of the announcement are very much make or break for us and many others in the cultural sector, I hope you understand how frustrated I am that the Scottish government does not appear to feel that it even needs to meet its own deadlines for giving vital information in a timely and useful manner in order for us to continue to operate.

If there is there anything you or your department can do to make the findings of the review public as soon as possible to enable us to act, I would be deeply grateful.

With kind regards,

[redacted]

Sent from my phone - please forgive typos...

202100212861 08 June 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: 08 June 2021 18:09
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Subject: Nightclubs

Well first minister

There is a surprise you can't reply you don't have the decency to send a simple email with a simple date when nightclubs can open cause your just a complete waste off space you should resign and stop spending all the money you got from the uk goverment on a stupid waste off time indeyref2 and hand out the money to all the struggling businesses that was meant to get the money

Sent from my iPhone

202100214033 10 June 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: Thu 10/06/2021 22:37

To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>

Subject: Physical distancing for audiences at performance venues - FAO Angus Robertson

Dear Mr Robertson

I am writing to request that physical distancing for seated audience members at classical music performance venues be reduced from two metres to one metre.

Currently Scotland is in the somewhat illogical situation whereby it is permitted to enter a pub or restaurant and sit, without a mask, distanced at one metre, and consume alcohol, possibly while watching a sporting occasion on a screen and (understandably!) giving vent to emotions of joy or despair.

On the other hand, classical music audiences, who remain virtually silent for entire performances and restrict applause to hand-clapping, wear masks, consume no alcohol, and enter and leave the auditorium in a highly organised manner, are still subject to the two-metre distance rule. Musicians are amongst those whose employment has been most severely hit by the pandemic, and yet as long as the two-metre rule remains, it is well nigh impossible to promote classical concerts without sustaining a large financial loss - a loss which most arts organisations are unable to contemplate. I can understand the economic and social reasons behind the Scottish Government's move to open up hospitality venues; but classical music too plays a large part in many people's lives, whether as audience member, performer or arts administrator, and at the moment it feels as if the arts are being left behind.

I cannot see how it can be justified that hospitality venues remain open with a one-metre distance rule, while professionally-managed classical music concerts have to meet a two-metre rule. Please can you rectify this injustice?

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

202100220245 15 June 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: 15 June 2021 [scanned letter]

Subject: Social distancing at professional classical music performances

Dear Ms Sturgeon

Social distancing at professional classical music performances

I am writing both in my personal capacity as a lover of classical music and in my role as [redacted], a charitable organisation dedicated to bringing exceptional chamber music to the Scottish Borders in a ten-day festival held at [redacted].

I understand from what you said in parliament today (Tuesday) that a review into, among other things, social distancing at performance venues and cultural events is currently being finalised. I would urge you to bring physical household distancing down to one metre for such events, with immediate effect.

In the case of [redacted], which is scheduled to run this year from 16 July, our normal capacity is around 130. Two-metre distancing results in audience numbers being limited to 24, which is a non-starter, financially. At one-metre distancing, 70 audience members can be accommodated. By dint of reducing performance times to around one hour and staging each concert twice, with one-metre physical distancing for the audience, we have been able to plan a 2021 Festival that is financially viable.

I know that you are aware that Scotland's current Covid regulations have resulted in some glaring anomalies. One of the most striking is the fact that one is now permitted to enter a pub or restaurant and sit, without a mask, distanced at one metre, and consume alcohol, possibly while watching a sporting occasion on a screen and (understandably!) giving vent to emotions of joy or despair. Contrast this with a professionally-promoted classical music concert, where audience members enter and leave the auditorium in a highly organised manner, wear masks, consume no alcohol, remain virtually silent for the entire performance and restrict applause to hand-clapping – yet have to sit two metres apart. It is not right that such an anomaly should be allowed to continue, depriving musicians of almost any possibility of performing live. Reinforcing the case for one-metre distancing, it should be noted that classical music audiences often comprise mainly older people, the vast majority of whom by now will have been vaccinated twice.

Musicians and others working in the performing arts industry are amongst those whose employment has been most severely hit by the pandemic. As long as the two-metre rule remains, it is impossible to promote classical concerts without sustaining a large financial loss – a loss which most arts organisations are unable to contemplate.

[redacted] in particular gives an economic as well as cultural boost to an area of Scotland where access to high-quality artistic performances is limited at the best of times. I hope your government can see fit to bring physical distancing for the performing arts into line with that currently stipulated for the hospitality industry with

immediate effect, thus allowing [redacted] and other similar events planned across Scotland for this summer to take place.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

202100214220 15 June 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tue 15/06/2021 11:17
To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>
Subject: Open theatres and music venues again

England are in a way worse place than us regarding the Indian variant But yet the UK gov are in talks with Andrew Lloyd Webber to open his production of cinderella again as a test event ..but why why WHY is there nothing NOTHING like that happening in scotland? It's so so not fair at all and again your disregard and uncaring attitude If the arts comes through. It's getting beyond a joke now we need normal back and need to learn to live with this thing now. Many other countries have live music and theatre back including the states why not us.....the brits was a massive test event and that proved that these things could workwe could easily be safe in an arena and theatre. We are allowed to do so many other thingswhy not this ..again disgraceful

Sent from my HUAWEI P20 on Three.

202100215225 16 June 2021

Sent: Thu 17/06/2021 20:23

From: [redacted]

Subject: Theatre and music

To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>

So again hairspray is opening in London on Monday? Please tell me we will get this back soon it just isn't fair

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202100215342 16 June 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: Wed 16/06/2021 15:06

To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>; Scottish Ministers
<Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>

Subject: [redacted] Music Festival [redacted]

Dear Sir/Madam,

[redacted] which is the Venue for the Music Festival as shown above, [redacted] and a large part of the audience are from south of the border where rules as they currently stand are different to those in the borders itself. This in itself will cause confusion with the differing rules.

Furthermore there are anomalies in the rules for the borders.

As far as [redacted] is concerned those wishing to eat in the Cafe in the court yard can sit 1 metre apart, without a mask and enjoy their food and company. Those who then wish to attend a concert within the house's gallery walk approximately 10 metres into the room where they have to sit 2 metres apart from those they have probably just eaten with and wear masks.

Concerts with an audience sitting 2 metres apart are not viable.

As a [redacted] of this Music Festival I would be grateful if you would give these problems your attention.

Yours faithfully

[redacted]

202100215273 16 June 2021

Sent: Wed 16/06/2021 11:53

From: [redacted]

To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>

Subject: FAO Angus Robertson and Jenny Gilruth - Cultural Strategy for the New Government

Dear Angus and Jenny,

My name is [redacted] and I am writing to you both with deep concerns about the state of the cultural sectors in Scotland as we continue to combat the pandemic. While the pandemic has exposed deep-seated issues with art and culture in Scotland, these problems are not new and, indeed, are linked to cultural strategies pursued in the past.

To give you some context I have worked as a freelance producer and project manager in performance for some years (working with artists such as [redacted], organisations like [redacted], and [redacted]) as well as being an artist myself. I have also worked as Marketing Coordinator for [redacted] and am currently completing a doctorate at the University of [redacted].

In the past, the Culture Secretary has been a supported and staunch advocate for our industries, but that support was very much geared towards the Edinburgh Festivals and big venues which already have significant financial support and investment whilst running on unsustainable models where the people at the very top of the orgs receive large salaries and the freelance workers, the workers who produce and make the work put on at these venues, receive very little in comparison.

For example, when I worked at [redacted] before its closure, only the Artistic Director/Chief Executive was a permanent member of staff and their salary consisted of half of our entire [redacted] Funding. All other staff were on freelance contracts, had to work part time (which meant that we often did extra work unpaid), and had no entitlement to sick pay or holiday pay.

The sector is made up of thousands of freelancers and I am gravely concerned that our needs and security will continue to go overlooked, that we will be forced to accept work that is underpaid and that our ability to pay our rents will be dictated by large organisations whose salaried leaders have no understanding of precarious housing and working situations.

To that end, I would like to know what the current plans are for the secretary and the minister to engage with freelancers and arts workers, to ensure that our voices are heard, our needs are addressed, away from the prying eyes of large bodies and heads of organisations for fear of reprisal?

My suggestion would be to hold a freelance and workers summit for arts and culture workers, bringing everyone together so that you can hear and understand the kinds of struggles we face. This is prolific and endemic and if the secretary and minister continue to only listen to those at the top this will only get worse.

Alongside this I will be keen to know if there is any research being commissioned by your office into alternative funding models for arts, freelancers and workers that puts money directly in their hands and is aimed at financial sustainability (Ireland's Arts Graduate Bursary or France's salary for artists, even Belgian or German funding models).

If you would like to speak further on any of these issues or on how a summit might work then I am happy to email or meet (virtually or otherwise) with you both at your convenience.

The arts and culture provide so much to our sense of self as a nation, to public health, city planning, and to the economy. We have a chance to reset the industry and to make it work, in the interests of everyone, and for the better. I implore you not to squander this opportunity.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

202100214531 16 June 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: 16 June 2021 08:24

To: Covid19 Outbreak Management <Covid19OutbreakManagement@gov.scot>

Subject: Visit

Dear Sirs,

Visit to Scottish Museum

The will only be three adult persons involved, all unrelated so only 3 households.

All three will wash their hands with sanitisers, all will wear facemasks, all will observe social distancing and all have been vaccinated so it seems OK to visit if open

Museums -can you confirm?

[redacted]

202100215861 16 June 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: 16 June 2021 09:47
To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>
Subject: Gigs

So many things meant to happen in August tribute bands in theatres for the summer . That we still don't know if will go ahead because you lot won't give any information again you don't think money and business are at stake here not to mention people's enjoyment being deprived. If sport can come back then so can this. Let us live our lives and just live with this virus now it's not going anywhere we just need to live with it yet yiu stopping us live our lives In someways what does it take to get through to you thst you HAVENT HANDLED clearance of live entertainment well at all you've mentioned so many other businesses but not this...shocking theatre and live gigs need to come back It just isn't fair anymore life don't just STOP a year and four months since we've had any of this don't yiu think we've waited long enough now Again not just fir enjoyment but for business too not just the performers but thr crews backstage costume make up admim ticket people...have you even thought about all that?

Rather than just what works best for you?

Its time to give this back to the people

I won't quit till its done
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202100215524 16 June 2021

Sent: Wed 16/06/2021 15:06

From: [redacted]

To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>; Scottish Ministers
<Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>

Subject: [redacted] Music Festival [redacted]

Dear Sir/Madam,

[redacted] which is the Venue for the Music Festival as shown above, [redacted] and a large part of the audience are from south of the border where rules as they currently stand are different to those in the borders itself. This in itself will cause confusion with the differing rules.

Furthermore there are anomalies in the rules for the borders.

As far as [redacted] is concerned those wishing to eat in the Cafe in the court yard can sit 1 metre apart, without a mask and enjoy their food and company. Those who then wish to attend a concert within the house's gallery walk approximately 10 metres into the room where they have to sit 2 metres apart from those they have probably just eaten with and wear masks.

Concerts with an audience sitting 2 metres apart are not viable.

As a trustee of this Music Festival I would be grateful if you would give these problems your attention.

Yours faithfully

[redacted]

202100215773 17 June 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: 17 June 2021 10:43
To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>
Subject: Pantos in Scotland

Again it's me again think.im.gonna back down ? No chance

So yojr seriously going to cancel pantos for Scotland..AGAIN this year ..yet English pantos are being prepared as we speak.....
Yiu are disgraceful how dare you how DARE yiu once again deprive us both proffesional and amateur..... honestly you have no idea what yiu'r doing you just don't care about the arts

Yiur a utter disgrace
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202100216560 20 June 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sun 20/06/2021 23:19
Subject: Help required- local young people in [redacted]
To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>

Hi Clare,
I hope you are well during this time.

I was keen to get in touch with you and see if you can offer any advice at all.

I run a local performing arts school for children, adults and additional support needs groups in drama, fitness, wellbeing, music, singing and more. Due to the pandemic some of our venues will not be reopening for our use once lockdown fully eases.

I have ran my classes locally in [redacted] for 14 years. Over the years we have tried to purchase many local buildings for our groups use however we always seem to miss out to someone else or for a different use. We have tried to purchase former community centres being sold by [redacted] too.

We recently won [redacted] for [redacted], we won [redacted] a few years before and were recognised by [redacted] for our work with the community during Covid-19 and promoting positive mental health and socialisation.

I had a chat recently with someone at [redacted] and through [redacted] (to which we are members) and they recommended that I get in touch with my local MP to see if you can perhaps offer any advice or guidance with purchasing a building locally to call home for our classes and community members.

We are keen to purchase one of the community centres that will soon be going up for sale by [redacted] (ideally we are super keen to buy [redacted] and remain within the [redacted] area)

We are cash buyers and keen to have a building to call our own in the community.

We have over 1000 local community members who attend our sessions each week & we are extremely keen to secure and buy our own local premises to enable our classes to continue after lockdown- many of our members rely on our services for their socialisation and positive mental health. We run classes 6 days a week and feel we are an asset to the community,

Any help or support that you can offer would be much appreciated.

Kind regards,
[redacted]

202100216366 21 June 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: Mon 21/06/2021 11:57

Subject: Live music and theatre in Scotland

To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>

England is getting it back its our turn now its gotta be this is just getting ridiculous now we need to learn to live with covid and get our lives and pleasures back and people in that industry need to work again
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202100217103 21 June 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: Mon 21/06/2021 21:03

To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>

Subject: Save Glasgow's libraries and leisure centres

Dear Minister,

I believe that Glasgow's libraries and leisure centres are lifeline services.

Glasgow Life, the charity which runs them, is facing losses of up to £25 million this year and has no plans to reopen almost two-thirds of its venues as a result.

I am writing to ask you to commit to a full bail-out for Glasgow Life so these essential services can be available to local communities when they are needed most.

Yours,

[redacted]

202100218852 21 June 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: 21 June 2021 19:00
To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>
Subject: Opening of a pop up gallery

I'm trying to find out if our club can hold our annual pop up gallery. We are in a level 2 zone.

We have been running a successful event for the last 18 years.

We have 50 artists taking part from the North East of Scotland but only three of our committee will be on duty at any one time. This runs for three weeks from 24th July 2021, to promote and sell art on behalf of the artists. We do not make a profit.

We use the local hall in [redacted] and it's open from 10am until 6 pm daily.

All covid related issues will be implemented, ie hand sanitizer, masks, social distancing, sanitised surfaces, separate entrance/exit etc.

Can you tell me if we can go ahead with the pop up gallery. We can't find information on this online.

[redacted]

202100217069 21 June 2021

From: [redact]

Sent: Mon 21/06/2021 20:03

To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>

Subject: Save Glasgow's libraries and leisure centres

Dear Minister,

I believe that Glasgow's libraries and leisure centres are lifeline services.

Glasgow Life, the charity which runs them, is facing losses of up to £25 million this year and has no plans to reopen almost two-thirds of its venues as a result.

I am writing to ask you to commit to a full bail-out for Glasgow Life so these essential services can be available to local communities when they are needed most.

Yours,

[redacted]

202100216944 21 June 2021

From: [redacted]

Date: Monday, 21 June 2021 at 12:18

To: Jenny.Gilruth.msp@parliament.scot <Jenny.Gilruth.msp@parliament.scot>

Subject: Live Performance - Social Distancing Guidelines

Hi Jenny,

I trust you are well and busy as ever.

As you are aware, myself and my partner are frantically putting the finishing touches to this years [redacted] and would greatly appreciate some specific guidance on our social distancing guidelines. I am specifically seeking clarification with regards to hosting performances at [redacted]. Guidance on the Scottish Government's website is unclear and we have received contradictory advice from various parties.

Our press release is due next week and we need to know if we can press the button or pull the plug.

We have fully complied with the current government Covid guidelines toward capacity, bubbles, social distance based at 2 metres, risk assessments and track and trace. However, we have been reliably informed that similar gigs where a drinks license is in place, which we also have, are subject to a one metre ruling. If this is the case this would adjust our audience numbers whilst still fully compiling with Covid & social distance guidelines.

We have spent months arranging [redacted] and have a full week of entertainment lined up, but as things stand we still don't know how many tickets we can sell, if any.

As you can imagine I would greatly appreciate a prompt response due to our press release dates and as ever, your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks

[redacted]

202100216652 22 June 2021

Sent: Tue 22/06/2021 09:05

From: [redacted]

To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>

Subject: Music and theatre

You gonna bother to mention the arts today in yijr update? Once again you do.realise this is not just about people's enjoyment this is people.jobs we are talking about here too.

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202100216825 22 June 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tue 22/06/2021 16:00
To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>
Subject: Theatre and gigs

So yet again.. todays announcement absolutely 0 mention of live music and gigs and theatre ..WHY why why why have yiu any idea how struggling our venues are in aberdeen and performers and backstage people crews hair and make up people out of work? You don't have a clue as long as it suits you

This is jjst not acceptable you keep delaying it and delaying it and delaying it and you don't even mention it in updates but sport gets mentioned another summer without our pleasures what's the point in living anymore how can you kee this from us

August sep big gigs are meant to be happening again..... yiu gonna stop thT too are you?

Why can't yiu just mention them on the TV? But you don't uoir handling of the arts has been shocking this isn't fair anymore not fair at all its like we will be deprived of this fir life and all thanks to you

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202100217427 22 June 2021

Sent: Tue 22/06/2021 20:59

From: [redacted]

To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>

Subject: Nightclubs.

Hi can you please confirm that nightclubs can open on the 9th off august

Thanks.

Sent from my iPhone

202100217146 22 June 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: 22 June 2021 12:48

To: Scottish Government Case Handling Service <casehandling.service@gov.scot>

Cc: Kate Forbes <kate.forbes.msp@parliament.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Finance <CabSecFinance@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Your recent correspondence with the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy – 202100204874

Good afternoon Finlay

I still think the points are being overlooked... those being;

In previous correspondence I was advised “government advertising was increased for obvious reasons and targeted to the sector to assist”

For us, yes it has, many of the 28 stations in Scotland, didn't see a penny because it went to [redacted] who I believe get an increased rate compared to what we get so it hasn't helped community radio much really, just 2 multi million pound corporate businesses based outwith the country and some community stations.

I say this ‘kind of’ helped us, with community radio, you can only make 50% of your income through advertising, the rest has to be other means, sponsors, donations, events, services etc....

So yes this increased advertising spend helped pay the bills but it added a LOT of pressure to obtain funding through other sources to balance it per the regulations via ofcom. This could have been completely avoided with a grant payment. We STILL cannot run events, educational classes, fundraising via small scale events, deliver equipment to 3rd party events which is our main sources of other income. Generally the members of the community are stretched financially already but heading back to work. To this end our local adverts have picked up again but that in turn adds pressure back on this other 50% which Holyrood doesn't seem to want to acknowledge.

I am constantly reminded that media is “not a devolved power” and this is why, personally I don't see why it would need to be devolved to offer assistance surely a fund you can apply for specific for an industry is the same as any other? Hospitality was set up with funds, yet in [redacted], the large hotels remained open throughout for keyworkers and due to knowing the staff at most – advised most hotels were full throughout.

Im aware ski centres have had it rough, but have also had a huge amount of money thrown at them, locally in [redacted], somewhere in the region of £400,000 per quarter I read somewhere.

Both are now open again. [redacted] you almost need to mortgage your house to visit, and being local you will no doubt know have to pay to park the car, or pay for a permit. Meanwhile in [redacted], I've lost track of the spend on their railway, but considering its all administered by a department based on ‘Business development’

funded from the government (HIE) surely the money they spent on it as its still broken, would be better spent on actual viable businesses in support? Example;

1 broken furnicular railway - £13 million +
Supporting the entire community radio sector, in turn supporting local charities and communities across Scotland for 12 months - £750,000

Yet guess which one is not looked at?

If given the opportunity id happily visit Holyrood and push this out there for all MSPs to hear as I feel this is just being shut down before anyone has the right to think about it. I am positive from dealing with other stations I could easily gain support from them and their local MSPs also.

Id also like to refer to this policy

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/policy-statement-creative-industries/pages/4/>

As I believe by the government not supporting the community radio sector a little more actively, where our volunteers are creating digital content, supporting local musicians and artists, who in turn are using local recording studios, and playing in localised music venues. As well as supporting other organisations, promoting tourism, gaelic, young person engagement, social isolation and inclusion among many more I can list off. Our efforts at [redacted] have been seen this year with the addition of our [redacted] which you gave us a sound bite for.

Most of the bigger BBC/commercial guys started in Community radio – and its about as creative as any other form of audio production, and definitely 1 of the most diverse, yet freely available to all.

Does this in itself not qualify for such support from Holyrood?

Also yes we have an application in with [redaction], but I believe the pot is 400,000 for over 300 stations, so its very much a competition of “who can write the best story of why they need the money the most” and is definitely not a given you will get any form of support.

Kind Regards
[redacted]

202100217143 23 June 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: 23 June 2021 11:46

To: Covid19 Outbreak Management <Covid19OutbreakManagement@gov.scot>

Subject: Question re numbers at small outdoor event.

Hi

I run a small Folk Cub and have planned an outdoor event for approx 50 people, sat 16th july. All attendees will be socially distanced(each household a min of 2 m apart). I will ask for all attendees to be either double jabbed or gave a test the day before they come.

The person singing will be a min of 4 meters from audience. Singing courses etc will be discouraged. There are sanitizing covers for mic.

Any help would be appreciated.

Thank you. [redacted]

202100218259 24 June 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: Thu 24/06/2021 10:40

To: Central Enquiry Unit CEU@gov.scot

CC: Public Engagement Unit <CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>; Scottish Government Case Handling Service <casehandling.service@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: REF 202100200866

Hi,

I requested the below information last month and got an answer so thank you for that, but now with further guidelines set to take affect from 19/07/21 in the Glasgow area (level 0), does this mean we can start having live music and entertainment from this date?

I would appreciate a prompt response on this matter so that we can get ourselves prepared in time.

Thanks,
[redacted]

202100217451 24 June 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thu 24/06/2021 13:41
To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>
Subject: Give freedom to put venues

[image of quote from news article] *“Andrew Lloyd Webber joins legal action to force ministers to release Covid pilot data”*

You lot need to do the same
Get Outlook for Android

202100218256 24 June 2021

Sent: Thu 24/06/2021 13:14

From: [redacted]

To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>;

Angus.Robertson.msp@parliament.scot

CC: [redacted]

Subject: A plea

Dear Angus,

First of all congratulations on your success at the recent elections and your new post within the Scottish Cabinet. We are very fortunate. Also congratulations on the safe arrival of your second daughter Flora.

We have met several times before, I'm [redacted], and a professional classical singer. I am writing to you in the hope that our government can do more for professional musicians retuning to work both at home and abroad. COVID aside, we need to repair the ridiculous situation regarding continuing our work and opportunities in Europe. The clowns in Westminster have no clue. They are shutting down borders and my industry is in serious danger of collapse.

[redacted] in [redacted] open last week and is permitted to return to 100% capacity audiences. How is this possible? We can learn a lot from Austria and how they are negotiating their way through this situation. I know this is something you will understand and hopefully agree with.

The article I have attached below is an example of what we read on a daily basis. Politicians in Westminster not making time for their people and pretending this is not an issue.

We also need to find away to allow choral singers to return to their choirs again. Why is it possible for people to meet in huge numbers if they are football fans and sing at the top of their voices, but yet choral singers can only meet up to 6 indoors and no more than thirty outdoors? Where is the logic? Nobody understands this. Surely if people take a lateral flow test on the day of their rehearsal and it is negative they should be permitted to attend and sing at their rehearsal. People should have the choice as to whether they attend or not. In difficult times music can heal and support.

Please can we start to be more European and lead the way in the UK over this issue. It is so important. We ask people to listen to us when we perform but it now feels like we have been silenced forever and nobody wants to hear from us or about us anymore. Without culture, the world is a very bland and desolate place.

I would be happy to meet with you if you would like to discuss any of this further.

Thanks and best wishes,
[redacted]

202100225915 25 July 2021

From: [redacted]

To: "nicola.sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot" <nicola.sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>

Sent: Sunday, 25 July 2021, 13:02:38 BST

Subject: DTRH Festival

Hi

The Festival is on for 4 days in August they are hoping for 10,000 to attend.

They will be celebrating for 16 hours a day.

We are one of 5 households that are in the centre of the festival

Apart from noise, lack of sleep, and the difficulty of leaving and returning home, we

Are concerned about the virus.

None of us can understand how this can go ahead.

Thanks

[redacted]

202100226976 29 July 2021

Sent: Thu 29/07/2021 19:10

From: [redacted]

To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>

Subject: Doon the rabbit music festival

How can football grounds get 25000 fans though the gate but a festival get cancelled with only 12000 festival goers ?[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

202100219766 30 June 2021

From: [redacted]

Date: 30 June 2021 at 21:37:49 BST

To: ceu@gov.scot, Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot

Subject: [redacted]

Hi Miss Sturgeon/Mr Leitch

I manage [redacted] which I'm sure you are aware of. We are currently working through a summer of outdoor events in the yard but are eager to get back inside and put on safe events again. I appreciate you are holding your cards pretty close to your chest but with the growing dismay that we are not stress testing covid protocols in a nightclub setting I hoped you might consider a couple of events we have coming up as test events. We have a local DJ who has sold out two nights in our [redacted]. I'm in the process of trying to find him new dates later in the year but I wondered if it could be used by Scot Gov to show that our industry is being considered.

On suggestion from our [redacted] for future events in the yard over the summer where music and entertainment is on offer we will be pushing all customers to take Lateral Flow Tests prior to the event. These cannot be compulsory at this stage and not something we are asking to check - we are simply advising for the safety of everyone in the venue and showing them a link to order the tests - but we if we did make it compulsory at these events on the 31st July and 1st August. [redacted], the DJ on the nights, has a really good engagement with his audience and could help facilitate this. His audience are young (18-24) and are unlikely to be double jabbed by these dates but if they were asked to present proof of a negative test for entry I'm sure we could make it happen.

I feel we are closer to the return of events than we have been throughout this (Nicola...please?) so even if this isn't attractive to you I look forward to the release of the next steps out of this.

Perhaps these events and events such as this, with a push for lateral flow testing could be a good way to get a large swath of the community tested.

Thanks

[redacted]

202100228017 3 July 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tue 03/08/2021 18:42
To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>
Subject: Gigs

Also only 2000 people? Bit alot of these bands who tour the UK play big Big venues and arenas like tecca aberdeen glasgow hydro....barrowlands 02 academy aberdeen music Hall....so where do they stand? You going to.tell bands they can't tour Scotland as that is going to yet again stop people doing what they've which would also be a disaster for Scotland and these venues.....if England can have that and we can't that's unfair...I have tickets for texas in Edinburgh in September genesis glasgiw in October...you really really telling me that after waiting a year and 5 months that they STILL can't happen?..

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202100221059 4 July 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: 04 July 2021 12:56

To: Covid19 Outbreak Management <Covid19OutbreakManagement@gov.scot>

Subject: Level 0

Dear sir or madam.

Looking over the rules do you think the outdoor concert will continue in August for

[redacted] with 12.000 people thanks

[redacted]

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

202100221773 8 July 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thu 08/07/2021 13:07
To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>
Subject: Arts

Let thr arts open let Scottish people have our music and theatre venues back
ee.need a lift stop stopping us enjoying ourselves

Get Outlook for Android

202100222351 12 July 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: 12 July 2021 [scanned letter]

To: Public Engagement Unit

Subject: Hindu community being demeaned by Edinburgh International Festival

I am writing to you today to highlight a major concern of myself and the British Hindu community. I am very upset to find that the Edinburgh International Festival is to show a play that trivialises the Hindu religion and its people. It was recently played at the Royal Lyceum Theatre and Pitlochry Festival Theatre.

[redacted]

[redacted]

Not only is this play religious appropriation of Hinduism in typical British colonial fashion, but is highly offensive to Hindus. I wonder if you would dare create a play in the same way about Islamic figures?

You are creating extremely bad taste with the UK's circa 1 million Hindus.

A recent study by the 1928 Institute, supported by Linacre College, University of Oxford found that eighty per cent of respondents experienced prejudice as a result of their Indian identity within the past 24 months. Of which, the largest type of prejudice reported is Hinduphobia.

Your play will only further confuse the general public about who Hindus are and allow others to mock what they believe in, and ultimately targeting the Hindu identity. Do you want the EIF platform to be used to propagate and further Hinduphobia in the UK? If not, I request that you cancel this play.

Looking forward to having a positive response and cancellation of the play at the earliest.

Regards,
[redacted]

202100223277 14 July 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wed 14/07/2021 11:13
To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>
Subject: Entertainment in pubs and other venues

Hi,
Trying to get clear info on having live music, disco & karaoke in pubs and other venues such as weddings, parties etc. When will this be possible and are restrictions on noise still as previous levels (now in level 0)?

Looking forward to your reply for each scenario mentioned please.

Thank you
Sent from my iPhone

202100223500 14 July 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wed 14/07/2021 12:35
To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>
Subject: [redacted]

Dear Kate Forbes

I am writing about the imminent loss of the [redacted] as a [redacted] only 'Arts Centre' which is what I've always considered it to be.

I see [redacted] call it '[redacted's] main tourism and hospitality business' on their sale details - but what guarantee is there that it will be sold to someone who wishes to continue in the same vein , and not use it as valuable real estate on which to build houses?

I used to live [redacted] and had [redacted] as an example of an amazing arts centre that blended Gaelic culture with the arts as well appealing to all ages and backgrounds with a current programme of popular culture - combined with a great restaurant, bar and social space.

Although [redacted] didn't quite achieve that I always hoped that that was something it was aspiring to and that [redacted] really needs for visitors and locals alike.

There is such potential for a stunning visitor destination/heritage/arts centre and community space - if we lose [redacted] it will leave such a gap in many of our lives. As an example this is how I used [redacted] - I am a member of [redacted] and we always used to have our weekly [redacted]. I would also go to see films, listen to music and book events. I care for my 97 year old Mum and we enjoy having a cup of coffee or lunch in the cafe - we really need the accessible space and toilets and welcoming environment from which to watch the world go by and meet friends.

I know that are many business models for access to the arts in rural communities and that a strong dispersed model is being developed by [redacted] I but I strongly believe that there needs to be one strong accessible Arts hub in the main town of [redacted] that provides access to everyone all day and everyday and is a welcome and a gateway to culture on the island for the many visitors that all pass through [redacted] (and I don't even live at that end of the island!).

If this isn't going to be [redacted- can you tell me if there are any plans for such a centre on[redacted]?

I look forward to hearing from you.

All the best,
[redacted]

202100223450 14 July 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wed 14/07/2021 22:26
To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>
Subject: Covid restrictions

Good evening,

I'm looking for some advice please. My daughter runs a small community arts business which comprises a small shop and workspace area. Since the pandemic began, she has been unable to run art classes and workshops due to the social distancing requirements. With restrictions easing, will she be able to run classes for 10 adults, wearing masks in her workspace?

Her business is on its knees and she fears it won't survive the year if she cannot get this part of her work up and running.

I appreciate that you are really busy, but any advice would be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks,

[redacted]

202100223702 14 July 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: Wed 14/07/2021 10:38

To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>

Subject: Query on Return to normality timescales and rules for [redacted] meeting

For Angus Robertson MSP

Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

scottish.ministers@gov.scot

As a [redacted] of an amateur theatre group in Edinburgh I write to seek clarity from you, as the Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture, on the rules of amateur theatre groups and when a return to 'normal' and planning for future productions will at all be possible. Is there any potential future dates and conditions beyond Level Zero.

As far as I can see the Covid zero level still gives no clear guidance for groups like us. Even the key amateur theatre organisations - the Scottish Community Drama Association, and National Operatic & Dramatic Association (Scotland) appear to give no guidance on their website, only links to the incomplete Scottish Government rules for individuals to read their own meaning into.

My interpretation of Covid rules is that rules that apply to members of the public apply to amateur group. That is that from the 19th July only eight individuals from four households can meet indoors, and there is no obvious easing after that. My drama group has its own premises and so we will continue to incur outlays with no income. There are no obvious public spaces available outdoors where even groups of fifteen can meet without permission. I am surprise given these constraints that the Edinburgh Festival Fringe can go ahead with live shows and advanced rehearsals. I certainly know of no long standing "amateur" theatres taking part this year in the Fringe either online or with live performances. The financial support given out by the Scottish Government to the Arts does not filter down to the "amateurs" only the professional venue organisations and even these are restricted. And of course the regular church venues are not open for hire.

1. So that I can report back to my committee can you please advise what are the clear rules and numbers of amateurs that will be able to meet indoors for at least rehearsals or committee meetings in person, and what key timetables are in place.

2. I would also be interested in the rules that cover organisation that consider themselves 'Acting Schools' differ. I have seen on Facebook what appeared to be rehearsals for a now recently past online production but which had more than 10 participants indoors in the photos. The participants will pay for a term of 'classes' that led to an online production to take place. How might this work around of rules have been possible?

The only opportunity I have had to meet up with fellow club members have been at a recent funeral, and even then mixing was restricted. A lot of our members live on their own, but due to mature age many have now had double vaccinations.

I would hope that this query will also prompt your Scottish Government culture officials to consider stronger liaison with or communication to [redacted] during these Covid times so they can update their Scottish Membership with government clarity. You may also not be aware of it but the SG used to help annually fund [redacted] by grant directly then through the Scottish Arts Council up until [redacted].

Thank you
[redacted]
Sent from my iPad

202100223335 14 July 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wed 14/07/2021 13:02
To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>
Subject: When can I play music?

Hi there

I am s a semi professional musician playing in a 4 piece covers band which predominantly play in pubs and clubs. As you will know, we have been unable to play since March 2020 and i have concerns with the current guidance, despite the much vaunted 'lifting of restrictions'. The document link below provides essentially zero realistic guidance for bands similar to the one I play in and makes it impossible for us, nor the venues we play in, to make any plans for a return to live music. This is particularly galling as live music appears to be returning in similar scenarios in other parts of the uk.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-the-performing-arts-and-venues-sector/pages/people-involved-in-performing-producing-designing-and-supporting-events/#history>

I look forward to - hopefully - some clear cut guidance rather than this document which makes it impossible for us and others to play music.

Regards

[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

202100224612 19 July 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: 20 July 2021 08:53
To: Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development
<MinisterCEID@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: A Scottish Film Opportunity.

Dear Jenny, [redacted]

On Sunday 23rd May I wrote ,by hand, a very detailed letter to you wearing your hat as Minister Of Culture.

I posted it ,first class one day later, to you at Holyrood ,with a neat printed address ,but I am concerned I have not received an acknowledgement nor a reply.

At the moment the Cinemas are desperate to get some British films into the picture houses and not just James Bond!

As I wrote, in my letter, there is a clear demand ,at the moment, for war films eg the success of "Dunkirk", "The Darkest Hour", "Churchill", "Their Finest ", "1917", "The Guernsey Literary And Potato Peel Pie Society""Imitation Game" etc and not all had huge budgets.

Today Scotland has major Film Studios in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Cumbernauld with major films like Indiana Jones being filmed here.

Since 2014 I have been involved in arguing the case for a film telling the story of [redacted] .Both Pinewood Studios and Creative Scotland gave me advice on how to write a paper of 15 pages in length presenting the case. There would be funds available both from the Malta Film Commission and tax breaks from the UK Government. The paper, which I can send to you again, was commended by the CEO of the British Film Institute personally.

As I have considerable experience of writing, I am willing to advise a script writer, in return for expenses only, to get this project up and running. I lived in [redacted] for years and have a degree in modern History. I am retired and now have the time to do it.

Given the fastest biggest tanker in 1942, the Ohio, was loaned by President Roosevelt to PM Churchill, and it set sail from Glasgow, the opportunity for a Scottish Film studio is rather evident. The definitive source is [redacted]. I have been involved in the research for six years since [redacted] died and there is a lot of archive material. The RN Historical Branch have advised me at HM Naval Base Portsmouth. I have had help from the archive depts of the USA and Germany and Italy and Malta.

I would welcome the opportunity to chat with you about this exciting project. I have no experience with the Film Industry, nor links with them, but you would know whom to contact at our Film Studios.

With the Maltese Government, with their pedigree of major films ("World War Z" was a Malta Scotland production) offering every assistance and expertise; massive subsidies, SWW locations and actors for crowd scenes: we could soon have this up and running. I do hope you did receive my letter.

I can resend you the paper putting the case for the film.

I have been [redacted] , and have followed your career with interest. [redacted] was my superb Campaign Manager.

Best Wishes,

[redacted]

Sent from my iPad

202100225154 21 July 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wed 21/07/2021 21:34
To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>
Subject: Large indoor venue events

Hi ,

I am wondering if the maximum number of 400 people at an indoor event applies to large events such as concerts such as those held in the SEC Hydro in Glasgow? There are various events scheduled to take place in this venue in October and tickets are still being sold for these events .

I feel that the Government should have some idea as to whether the events will still take place and if they deem it to be too dangerous then the performers should be discouraged from continuing to sell tickets for the performances .

This venue holds 10,000 people which surely is way too many guests to be allowed to attend .

Kind regards
[redacted]

Sent from my iPad

202100225283 21 July 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: 22 July 2021 08:53
To: Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development
<MinisterCEID@gov.scot>
Subject: [redacted]

Hi Jenny,

I think this request falls under your remit as Minister of Culture but please let me know if I'm incorrect in this assumption.

I know that the old [redacted] building still lies empty and unused and [redacted] own the property. I had an idea which I'm discussing with a couple of interested parties about buying back the cinema and turning it into a number of movie and TV sound stages, complete with the latest technology that Industrial Light and Magic use to film The Mandalorian and other Marvel TV franchises. One of the parties is [redacted] production company that supply these LED volume studios, who would be willing to co-invest with the right opportunity and consortium.

I know the building is now A Listed so internally I'm not sure what can be structurally done but the cinema rooms would be fitted with this LED equipment and would offer central Edinburgh a unique location for film and tv production as well as an educational facility for creative college and university courses.

I'm not familiar with any of the processes that would be required, so reaching out to see whether this concept has any merit first of all, and if so, whether the Government could support it.

Best
[redacted]

202100225300 22 July 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: 22 July 2021 13:16

To: Covid19 Outbreak Management <Covid19OutbreakManagement@gov.scot>

Subject: function suite rules for level zero

My name is [redacted]

I RUN A FUNCTION SUITE IN [redacted]

I HAVE TRIED TO OBTAIN INFORMATION TO SEE IF
WE CAN NOW HAVE PARTIES WITH LIVE ,OR D,J.MUSIC.

THERE IS NOTHING IN THE GUIDELINES THAT CLARIFIES THIS FOR US.

Weddings and funeral are mentioned ,but the MUSIC again not clear.

At our functions people expect to dance as part of the event.

Can you clear up what is or is not allowed at Functions
I.e 21st birthday party or works dance etc.

Thank you

[redacted]

202100225578 22 July 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: 22 July 2021 11:12

To: Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing & Local Government

<CabSecSJHLG@gov.scot>

Subject: [redacted] Cultural Quarter Development

Dear Ms Robison

Is there a chance we could discuss recent town centre improvements in [redacted]?

I think we have a little success story going in the town that might have some merit relating.

Broadly, several semi derelict and disused buildings in the town's conservation centre have become arts centres, artists residencies and museums. The conservation area is now a Cultural Quarter and over the last three years hosts three annual arts festivals. Throughout the year the centres have provided a base for twelve or more artists a year from across the world staying weeks or months: indirectly through conversation and film about their work in the town artists and writers are helping build a positive impression of once neglected [redacted] area.

We could do more in the town if we could find a regeneration plan into which the work so far could fit and be rolled out.

We'd be happy to host a visit if you or colleagues interested.

Regards,
[redacted]

202100226147 26 July 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: Mon 26/07/2021 17:00

To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>

Subject: Guidance re small music festival in back garden for 150 attendees

Hi There,

I am looking for some guidance with a small Music Event that i am planning for Charity. I was hoping to have a small music festival with local [redacted] bands, with the event taking place in my large back garden. I was hoping to have around 150 people seated. Can you tell me if i am allowed to do this under current restrictions or if i need to wait till they change.

Regards

[Redacted]

202100226399 27 July 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tue 27/07/2021 16:13
To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>
Subject: Scotland's Film and Television Industry

For the attention of Ms Gilruth,
Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development

A pleasure to make your acquaintance!

My name is [redacted] and I last year moved back to Scotland after living in Auckland, New Zealand for [redacted] years. While I was overseas I trained and had a prosperous career in Film and Television, specifically in editing high end scripted drama.

Since I moved back to Scotland (which was always part of my plan - No place like home!) I have found that the industry is severely lacking in many ways. Especially in comparison to New Zealand as point of reference of a similarly sized country. I'd like to outline below some of these points and what could be done to improve them and then summarise at the end the benefits not just to those working in the industry but to the Scottish economy and the Scottish people as a whole.

1. Firstly we have very little studio space that can sustain large scale overseas productions. This is particularly noticed by people like myself in [redacted] as there seem to be many larger productions that come up to Scotland for filming the picturesque landscapes and background shots but then after the shoot have to return to London, Manchester or Cardiff to continue through the long post production Process at a studio where the production will be based as there is simply not the facilities to do so here. From what I can tell there is Ward Park Studios in Cumbernauld in use by Left Bank Pictures for "Outlander", there is also the newer studio in Leith currently being used for the production TV Series "The Rig" as well as some smaller offerings in Glasgow.

Now while the initial set up and building of these large scale 8 sound stage or above studios can be costly (Cost models detailed here) they reap a great deal of benefits. The main obvious one being drawing large scale international (mostly American) productions to set up their base around such studios. As has happened with "Outlander". These productions end up investing large amounts of money into the local economy as they film.

In New Zealand this has been demonstrated by several projects and not just big films in Wellington like "Avatar" and "The Lord of the Rings" but also Starz series like

“Ash vs Evil Dead”, Canadian series “The Shanara Chronicles” and more recently Amazon’s untitled Lord of the Rings series. The large scale budgets of these productions coming over and basing themselves in Auckland or Wellington based studios results in large amounts of money being injected into the local economy as well as bringing up the level of the local talent both in terms of Actors and film production crew. The knock on effect of this has resulted in very high quality and consisted domestically produced Films and Television. (companies like South Pacific Pictures regularly produce scripted content that even gets sold overseas and the government funded NZ Film Commission funds and produces all kinds of film projects and even partners with film bodies overseas to make very ambitious projects such as the Action Comedy like “Guns Akimbo” a co-production with Germany.

2. Another point that is contributing to our lack of industry in Scotland is a lack of budgeted Film Production companies. All companies domestically producing well budgeted, high end content are based in England. These are the likes of domestic facilities like the BBC, ITV, Sky Studios as well as International Partners like Amazon Studios and Netflix. There are no companies with the funding or resources in Scotland looking to regularly make regular content.

In New Zealand, aside from the NZ film commission (who handles this on the film side) there is also the NZ On Air Fund. This is a government fund that awards funding to companies who pitch for specific budgets for a project. For example the aforementioned South Pacific Pictures will often request funding for a season of a TV Series in the realm of NZ\$6-8million several times a year and will be awarded that money. This is due to them having demonstrated they can produce content that is well received and can even be sold overseas. It also keeps all well trained film crew in New Zealand as they have good work available. In Scotland unless you are on one of the one or two productions that might be happening at the time, you’re best is to move to London for work.

There is not just the financial aspect of this as well but also the culture sense. Kiwis regularly see good quality scripted television stories that are about them. They do not always watch American or Australian stuff. This adds to and solidifies their culture and identity as New Zealanders. This is something that Scotland could really benefit from. The only regular programming we see of a Scottish based story is “River City”.

3. My last point (for this email) is one that is perhaps outside the control of the Scottish Government but it involves offering Tax breaks to overseas productions. Now as controversial as these can be what was done in New Zealand was these tax breaks were contingent upon what your production could offer New Zealand and it’s economy. For example you can be offered a larger tax break if you hire local crew and companies, more further if you showcase New Zealand landscapes or culture in your film.

If an initiative like this was to be offered here we could attract large productions like “Game of Thrones” and “Lord of the Rings” here. As well as more modern

productions and other genres. As we have seen recently with Glasgow doubling as Gotham for “The Batman” and New York for “Indiana Jones”. Outlander is great but we need another 3 or 4 productions going all year round like that as well as big ones of our own to really reap the benefits and improve the industry.

To sum up here are the actions I believe that could be taken locally in Scotland that could really kick start the industry in a fast and big way:

1. A new funding body. This could be an entirely new body or it could be a new Arm of Screen Scotland. It would provide and allocate Government funding to potential Scottish based Film and TV productions, pitched for by Scottish production companies. This would see the growth of Scottish TV production and Scots watching our own stories on TV. Not just stereotyped Scots played by Americans or English stories set against the backdrop of Scotland with the main characters being from England.

2. Investment in new studio space and facilities. The website filmbang.com lists the various film professionals and film companies based in Scotland and it's clear there is just not enough to sustain a local industry. We need several more Film Studios, preferably with at least 8 sound stages each. These could be spaced throughout Scotland as well, offering bumps to the local economies of places like Inverness and Dundee. So not just the big centres. Inverness in particular would be ideally suited as a base for a large production given it's proximity to the highlands and landscapes. It would result in many knock on effects including massively up-skilling our crew, boosting the use of local companies including airports (flying in cast and crew and equipment to Inverness Airport could be a big boost for them). The lack of studio space in Scotland has already been cited as a major factor for large projects like “Game of Thrones” deciding to not base their productions in Scotland.

Note film and TV is a booming industry with the likes of streaming giants and US Cable networks. Even a small piece of that pie would mean huge money for Scotland.

3. Direct communication and discussion with large content producers. We should be talking with the likes of Netflix, Amazon Prime, Apple TV+, HBO etc about what would attract them to come and base a production here. What would they need in place before they would come here? Then the Scottish Government and Screen Scotland could partner with them to make it happen. In the past companies like these have contributed huge sums to help build local studio space and production centres. We need to attract that investment here as all of it for the UK seems to go down south to England.

Blazing Griffin, who are a Post Production company as well as a content producer based in Glasgow have in the past had trouble convincing American partners like Starz to do work in Scotland when London is seen as the uncontested film centre of the UK. We need to showcase that we have the talent and resources up here as well. Not even as a rival to London but just as capable.

4. Co-ordinate with and support Scottish based production companies. giving awards to those who agree to use Scottish based crew, facilities and/or tell Scottish stories.

So we can see more of those on our screens. This would also result in a more Scottish sense of identity among the population and a realisation of the fact that we can and should be punching far higher and further and on our own two feet. If countries like New Zealand (and Ireland and the Czech Republic etc) can do it then so can we.

I hope you will consider some of what I have said and I'd love to talk about it more to someone in Government and / or industry that can help make this happen. Since returning to Scotland I've worked over at Outlander and am now based with Axis studios in Glasgow. I'm contacting Industry bodies and I've joined the SNP and trying to contact people there that could help effect this change and boost our industry but I believe yourself would be the best place to start.

I thank-you very much for your time,

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

202100226806 28 July 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wed 28/07/2021 22:45
To: First Ministers Website Mailbox
Subject: Concerts

Message Body:

Hi, hope you are well, Its just a wee quick question regarding live concert as i am due to attend the SSE Hydro in October with my 25 year old and 16 year old. Both me and my son are double jagged but my daughter is 16 and not been offered a jag!! What plans are there ahead to tackle this kind of problem as i cannot go if she can't get in? thank you

202100227757 02 August 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: Mon 02/08/2021 16:55

To: Public Engagement Unit CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot

CC: Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism & Enterprise <MinisterBTTE@gov.scot>

Subject: Nightclub Funding

Just had the applications refused for our nightclubs for Round 2 of the Culture Organisations and Venues Recovery Fund
This was the reasons

Based on discussions with the Scottish Government, organisations that have gained support through the following emergency funds will not be eligible to apply:

- *Performing Arts Venues Relief Fund*
- *Grassroots Music Venues Stabilisation Fund*
- *Independent Cinema Recovery and Resilience Fund*
- *Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund*
- *Museums Recovery and Resilience Fund*
- *Local Authority Contingency Fund*

Following review of your application by our Funding team, we are writing to inform you that your submission did not meet the eligibility criteria of the fund due to your organisation having received support from the [redacted] as listed above. This information has been made available to Creative Scotland via Scottish Government and Local Authorities.

All of the above funds apart from the [redacted] have been renewed after March as the years funding finished then.

We received the [redacted] which is the [redacted] and that was to cover us till end March.

As it isn't being renewed they are excluding us from COVR funding based on thinking we are to receive another fund that no longer exists and the COVR fund round 2 was only fund available to apply for.

And that results in nightclubs the only sector forced to remain closed at level 0 and the sector most in need as cant open in any form losing out on all funding

I honestly don't think your department realise this error and huge gap in funding. There should either have round 2 of the Nightclub Fund or have allowed premises like our own to apply for round 2 of the COVR fund

I am on committee of [redacted] and they will also be contacting regarding same subject

Regards

[redacted]

202100228215 04 August 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wed 04/08/2021 06:12
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Subject: Nightclubs and vaccines

Dear First Minister,

Thanks as always for your leadership during this terrible pandemic.

I'm glad to hear of the latest easing of restrictions but may I please register my hope to see a requirement for double vaccination as a condition of entry. I refer with concern to this article below from the NME, quoting a SAGE expert:

<https://www.nme.com/news/sage-expert-says-re-opening-nightclubs-is-unethical-and-immoral-3001935%3famp>

Dr. Scally says: "I think it's justifiable to open nightclubs but only if you believe this government policy that it's good to have infection, and it's good to have illness, and it's good to have death during the summer rather than trying to prevent or postpone those into later in the year. So there is a case for it, but that case is immoral and unethical."

I'm particularly concerned for young people - clearly the nightclub demographic majority - who are not jabbed, and those they may infect until they are.

Thanks and kind regards
[redacted]

202100228169 04 August 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: Wednesday, 04 August 2021 12:16:20 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh,
Lisbon, London

To: First Ministers Website Mailbox

Subject: Face masks

I await with interest the answer to the question of whether face masks will be required in night clubs. If the government states that they are not required to be worn when people are moving about or dancing in the venue then there should be no legal requirement to wear them in any indoor setting. People should be allowed to decide themselves when to wear a face mask

202100228603 05 August 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thu 05/08/2021 11:47
To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>
Subject: Clarity on test and protect – museums

To whom it may concern,

I'm a [redacted] representative for a [redacted] working in a museum in Scotland.

It is unclear from the first ministers statement on Tuesday if museums will require to collect details from staff and visitors for test and protect from the 9th of August.

Can you please provide clarity on the matter?

A quick response to the question would be most appreciated.

Regards,
[redacted]

202100229729 9 August 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: Mon 09/08/2021 09:51

To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>; martyn.day.mp@parliament.uk

Subject: NO MASKS IN NIGHTCLUBS BUT MASKS IN HIGH SCHOOL AND CHAPEL?

Good Morning Ms Sturgeon / Mr Day

I must say that I am bitterly disappointed and angry that you are now allowing nightclubs to open without masks and yet secondary school pupils will still have to wear these. Your handling of coronavirus and the restrictions of our freedom in Scotland has ensured that I will no longer vote for Scottish Independence. I feel in a trapped prison!

Kind regards

[redacted]

202100231705 10 August 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: 10 August 2021 13:42

To: Managed Isolation Enquiries <managedisolationenquiries@gov.scot>

Subject: SSE HYDRO (Glasgow)

Hello,

will full capacity concerts at the SSE Hydro in Glasgow be possible from September without restrictions or do all visitors have to be vaccinated?

Best regards,

[redacted]

202100230800 11 August 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: Wednesday, 11 August 2021 20:36:24 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London

To: First Ministers Website Mailbox

Subject: Masks no longer required at nightclubs but still required at church services

Dear Ms Sturgeon, why are church congregations still required to wear masks at church services when far larger sports/music events, night clubs and other social gatherings are receiving far more lenient restrictions, if any at all now? Where is the science to back the need for masks still to be worn at church, whether singing or not?

The lack of fair treatment could be viewed as discriminatory and it does not make any sense. Please consider treating us fairly. We have followed guidelines to the best of our ability, providing online services, socially distanced services, followed hygiene guidelines, held Zoom social events.... Like many others, we are praying for a return to a more 'normal' service, although we know that 'normal' cannot be the same as before. Yours sincerely, [redacted]

202100230808 12 August 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thu 12/08/2021 15:59
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Subject: Nightclub Covid Safety Sub Club

Dear First Minister,

Thank you for your trusted leadership during this pandemic. I could use your help please on a pandemic issue.

My boy goes to the [redacted] in [redacted] Street Glasgow and I am worried that he's even allowed over the door just now before he's double jabbed. It's a sweat pit and has no ventilation whatsoever. If we are going to insist on opening nightclubs like this one I would at least like to know they aren't going to be crammed in like sardines for a start.

All these young anti Vaxers around etc. I think the owners should be made to ask the youngsters if they are double jabbed just now, for their own safety, as the risk is still high but they want bums on seats, but should be insisting at least till the risk overall is down a bit.

And for me they should be halving the amount of people that get in it, they're known for packing them in and that's just not on just now. He's young and daft and raring to go but I'm terrified he's going to be exposed big time.

Nightclub owners especially of wee pokey basements like this one, need to be socially responsible beyond what the law makes them do.

The ventilation alone should be a showstopper in the sub club and its likes in my opinion just now, but maybe they have a plan for it.

I'm all for the young ones having a good time but going straight back to pre pandemic is premature.

Thanks as always for listening and acting in the best way.

Kind regards
[redacted]

202100231923 16 August 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: Mon 16/08/2021 17:37
Subject: Nightclub opening
To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>

Good afternoon

I am looking for advice on opening our nightclub which is on a university campus. We don't have any windows or doors to allow circulation of fresh air, we also don't have an aircon/extraction system that removes the dirty air and replaces with fresh. Do these factors mean we can not open the club?

If I can open can you point me towards proper current legislation so that I can do a risk assessment for both staff and customers please.

Cheers

[redacted]

202100232414 19 August 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thu 19/08/2021 07:50
To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>
Subject: Creative Sector

Good afternoon Mr. Robertson,

I hope I am writing to the appropriate person? My apologies if not.

As a Film & TV Industry professional I was hoping to ask about any Scottish Government plans for development of independent purpose built film studio space within Scotland.....I suppose the larger question would really have to be why don't we have one already, but that's a little pointed.

For decades now Scotland has been missing out on the potential for attracting large scale productions from overseas and has instead managed to survive on the scraps from productions based elsewhere dropping in for the odd location shoot here and there. This does seem negative and it will seem that I am completely overlooking the growth of the industry and of course specifically the productions that have indeed been based in Scotland (Outlander TV Series, Trainspotting 2, Outlaw King etc etc). Please be assured that the fact we have had these productions has been great for Scotland, for the crew who have benefited from employment and for the other revenues generated through services and support during filming.

Frequently over the years Scotland has missed out on other opportunities due to lack of studio space. While it's undeniable that we are blessed with extraordinary location options throughout our country and breathtaking vistas, this comes in tow with our unpredictable weather systems. Thus the expense and risk for a large scale production to come and shoot without the safety net of being able to switch their shooting schedule to studio time if inclement weather is forecast is often a gamble that causes Scotland to lose a production base to the likes of Ireland or Wales or even recently New Zealand.

Regarding the last statement where the forthcoming Lord of the Rings production from Amazon was lost to New Zealand, it appears that the Production is returning to the UK and undoubtedly there will be some aspects of it filmed in Scottish locations. However, the lack of a proper studio space may be the reason that Scotland does not get the opportunity to host the production. There is of course talk of studio investment from Amazon for this show, but doing that in Scotland would take time and if their schedule (from media reports) is to be believed they don't have that luxury.

A recent statement from the New Zealand film commission revealed that the first season of this show, during Covid, generated revenue to the tune of NZ \$650 million and created 2000 jobs.

Surely this alone should give credence to the Scottish Government investing in purpose build studio space? There are studios continually being built in England,

Wales and Ireland to accommodate the increased demand for content and at each step countless jobs are created and infinite revenue potential is opened up.

It is with a terribly heavy heart that I admit our creative bodies - Screen Scotland/Creative Scotland and the Film Commission Offices are absolutely not fit for purpose. To the extent that productions coming to Scotland openly laugh at their ineffectiveness.

Can something be done about this?

Kind regards,

[redacted]

202100241935 20 September 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: Mon 20/09/2021 21:46
To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>
Subject: Entry to venues with English Covid pass

Good evening,

I am travelling with my 16 year old son to Glasgow from England on 8th October to attend a concert at SSE Hydro in Glasgow. I have had both jabs and my son has had his first. Our vaccinations were administered in England, but I read that venues in Scotland only accept vaccines administered in Scotland. I have an NHS Covid Pass but I fear it won't be valid. I am concerned that we are travelling up to Glasgow and will now be refused entry on the evening. There will be many others attending in the same situation.

Please could you clarify the situation from your end.

Many thanks

[redacted]

202100232891 20 August 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: Friday, 20 August 2021 14:50:07 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London

To: First Ministers Website Mailbox

Subject: Nighclubs - rising covid positive cases

Please close down the nightclubs. Allowing young people to congregate indoors in large numbers is a factor in the current rising cases. Consumption of alcohol & late night opening is creating a worrying situation. This will only get worse. I worry about increasing covid cases and new variants. I respectfully urge you to consider this position as soon as possible. Grateful for your response. Thank you.

202100233063 23 August 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: Monday, 23 August 2021 14:37:04 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London

To: First Ministers Website Mailbox

Subject: College/University

I am messaging showing my upset over how you have allowed nightclubs to open with no social distancing measures in place - letting people dance with no restrictions with no masks. How on earth is this safer than a business student or medical student studying to earn a degree? Blended learning hasn't only affected peoples chances for a future but also our mental health and to have a first minister putting nightclubs before our further education is disgraceful and I will be voting conservatives in the next election unless you do what's right for our country.

202100233759 23 August 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: Mon 23/08/2021 15:39
To: Mon 23/08/2021 15:39
Subject: for urgent attention of Angus Robertson

Dear Minister,

I know you have been supportive in the Scottish Government's acknowledgement of the plight the performing arts industry in Scotland has been facing with social distancing requirements. We were all delighted when it was announced last month that, along with England, social distancing restrictions would be lifted and we could re-open our theatres again.

The guidance for theatres producing work was that we should behave responsibly in the rehearsal room – which we are all delighted to do.

However, new guidelines and instructions were published last week (see link below) which prevent us from doing exactly that. We are told that barriers or a one metre rule must be applied on stage and in the rehearsal room:

'A person who is performing does not need to wear a face covering if there is a partition between that person and other people or if there is at least 1m between that person and other people.'

For a one person show that is not a problem.[redacted] , like many others, has just contracted an ensemble of eleven actors for a major new production for this autumn – to coincide with Cop 26 in fact – and now that production will be put in jeopardy by this new restriction. In England there are no such restrictions which means productions coming to Scotland will need to be restructured accordingly and likewise Scottish productions going down south.

The huge irony is that while night clubs were at the end of the queue and, even under level 0, had to remain shut, they can now function without any masks or social distancing – if patrons are on the dance floor or in the bar – which is effectively everywhere apart from the toilets.

We were planning to put rehearsal protocols in place involving daily lateral tests for all cast and crew and appropriate sanitising and health procedures at all times.

However, the re-introduction of an insistence on the one metre rule or barriers on stage throws our work into chaos.

Can you please help?

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-reopening-of-cultural-performances-and-events-guidance/pages/precautionary-measures/>

202100233599 24 August 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tue 24/08/2021 16:35
To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>
Subject: Physical Distancing for Performers

Dear Angus Robertson and other Ministers,

I am deeply concerned to see today that the Scottish Government has reimposed physical distancing rules on the arts sector, with the paragraph included in your updated guidance which states that unless face masks are worn, performers on stage must be 1 metre apart.

I am absolutely horrified to see this news, as an artist currently in rehearsals for a show. This is, to be blunt, absolutely ludicrous. It is impossible for this to work in any sort of performance setting. The arts industry has suffered so much throughout this pandemic, and just when we have had the opportunity to get back on our feet, the Scottish Government has targeted us directly and imposed stricter rules than any other industry is facing.

I understand that any close contact setting inherently comes with risk, but I do question how it is the case that the arts in England are being allowed to proceed with sensible mitigations, such as daily testing of cast and crew, while the arts in Scotland face being shut down once more due to these unworkable rules.

It is also the case that we have now almost reached the end of the Edinburgh International Festival and Fringe Festival - many shows were and are being performed without 1 metre distancing as per the previous rules, would you like them to rework their shows for the final week of the festivals?

Large scale touring productions will simply not come to Scotland if this rule stays in place. There is no possibility that a show will change how it operates in order to do a few performances in Scotland, when they can perform in England with no restrictive rules.

As someone who has supported the Scottish Government and the SNP throughout this pandemic, I am now deeply distressed at this latest development. It seems that there is no interest in the rebuilding of the arts sector, and indeed that there is a desire to further destroy it.

I await your response urgently, and implore you to rethink this guidance in order for the Scottish arts sector to begin to build itself back from the ground. Do not let this government's legacy be the death of the wonderful Scottish arts sector.

Yours sincerely,
[redacted]

202100234224 24 August 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: Tuesday, 24 August 2021 20:35:43 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London

To: First Ministers Website Mailbox

Subject: Glasgow Life and it's Effects upon my Children

Message Body:

Hello,

I am a mum to [redacted] young girls, [redacted] and we live in the [redacted] area of Glasgow. I wanted to write to let you know how the decisions that Glasgow Life and Glasgow Council are making with regards to their cutting of services is directly impacting my family, and how depressing it is.

- They aren't reopening Whiteinch Library. My girls loved this library pre-lockdown and are upset they can't access it. I also have attended [redacted] sessions when they were babies, and would hope to do so when the new one is here.

- They aren't reinstating the tennis nets in Victoria Park tennis courts.

- The pitch & putt in Victoria Park is no longer there

- Swimming lessons appear to have been discontinued at Scotstoun Leisure Centre

- Gymnastics lessons also appear to have been discontinued at Scotstoun Leisure Centre

- Scotstoun Leisure Centre isn't renting out a dance space to their dance class teacher, so their dance lessons have also been stopped.

It feels as though all of their access to clubs and interests, which are so important in helping them develop and grow, have been stopped, with no interest in either reinstating them, or providing alternatives in the area.

This is having a huge impact on not only my family, but on the wider community of [redacted]. How are young people supposed to gain life skills and develop when all of the local services to help them do this are non-existent?

I feel so frustrated and let down by all the people making these decision.

Thank you for taking the time to read this,

Kind Regards

[redacted]

202100233477 24 August 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: 24 August 2021 19:28

To: Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>

Subject: Guidelines for nightclubs

Good Evening

I'm looking for clarification on the rules in nightclubs. Having been contacted as a close contact of someone with a positive Covid test, I am extremely concerned that a small number of other contacts attended [redacted] in Aberdeen this past weekend. My concern is there was absolutely no track and trace details taken. Is this now the correct guidelines?

Many Thanks

[redacted]

202100234175 24 August 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: 19 August 2021 19:31
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Subject: BAME COMMUNITY PROJECT

Hi Nicola,

Hope you are well?

My name is [redacted], and I am emailing on behalf of my team at [redacted]. [Redacted] is an events management company that is focused on building and rejuvenating the BAME culture within Scotland. For the longest time, black individuals like myself have struggled to not only fit in society but also celebrate our African culture/heritage. Now a grown adult I realized this not because we do not want to but because there is a lack of resources available to us for us to do so. Now my team and I want to tackle this straight on, we want Scotland to become a place where all races especially Black people can be celebrated (not only during black history month). In doing so we have decided to plan/host Scotland's first [redacted] Music Festival next year.

[redacted] , this type of event has never been held in Scotland before. Many have tried but because of lack of support or racial scrutiny, they have backed out. We have made a pledge that we will try our best efforts to make this work. We have chosen to host this event at the SSE Hydro next year, and are opening it up to local, regional, and global [redacted] music artists, dancers, etc. The potential attendees of this event are 12000 individuals coming from all over Scotland. We anticipate that this event will generate a buzz in the media industry as it has never happened in Scotland before. Hence, why we want full governmental backing to show that Scotland is a welcoming nation where culture is always celebrated.

We need the support of Scotland's prime minister, we recognized and have appreciated her previous efforts for the BAME community. We need her help to make this event a success. I would like to discuss how and in what ways we are looking for assistance, either face to face or through phone/zoom. But ideally, I would prefer face-to-face.

Kindly let me know if this is possible
[redacted]

202100234194 24 August 2021

From: [redacted]
Date: 24 August 2021 at 13:21:14 BST
To: Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot
Subject: Events In Scotland

Good Afternoon,

I am emailing you today regarding TRNSMT which is happening in Glasgow on 10th September 2021.

After your announcement today and the rise in cases particularly in Glasgow itself and surrounding areas, can you please advise why you are not cancelling this event? especially after the outbreak after Boardmasters Festival.

I would be interested to hear why this event is still going ahead especially given the recent outbreak due to festivals.

Understandably life has to get back to normal however 50,000 + gathered is surely not stopping the spread which is what everyone wants.

Look forward to hearing from you

[redacted]

202100234338 25 August 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: Wed 25/08/2021 21:28

To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>

Subject: Health and Safety - Lack of safety measures –[redacted] -Vue – [redacted]

Please find attached email that I have also sent to [redacted]. I have also forwarded a complaint to [redacted].

While cases rise, it is ever more important that we still to guidelines even with restrictions lifted. I personally still test and wear a mask as is required. To have been in an uncomfortable situation in this cinema had made me doubt how we, as a nation can get on top of this when disregard appears to still be common place.

This is the first time I have been in a public place such as a cinema with a number of people since last March and it will be the last for some time. It is essential that these establishments have the strength of the law on their side and that members of staff are educated and given strategies to deal with those who may be reluctant.

I listen to the adverts but unless they are adhered to and advice given, they may as well be for chewing gum or car insurance.

I look forward to hearing a response.

Thank you

202100234951 31 August 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: Tue 31/08/2021 12:02

To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>

Subject: FOI Request to Scottish Government: TRNSMT Music Festival 2021

Hi

I would like to submit an FOI request as follows:

- Please provide details of all risk analysis and impact projections (as in Covid rates of transmission, prevalence of the disease in the population and impact on NHS) undertaken in order to take the general decision that TRNSMT 2021 (Glasgow 10-12 September 2021) be allowed to go ahead AND any discussion/correspondence/further analysis done in this area subject to the recent significant rise in COVID infection (eg the 7000+ figure reported for 28 August 2021) and the estimate that a similar size festival held recently in Cornwall, England resulted in c5,000 cases.
- Please provide copies of all correspondence and other interactions with a written record between Scottish Government (ministers and employees) and TRNSMT 2021 organisers - relating to Covid or any other matter.
- Please provide copies of all correspondence and other interactions with a written record between Scottish Government (ministers and employees) and other public bodies likely to be impacted by TRNSMT in public health-related terms organisers - eg NHS, Health Boards etc.

If you need any further information or clarification, please be in touch.

Thanks

[redacted]

202100236543 1 September 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: Wed 01/09/2021 00:07

To: First Minister firstminister@gov.scot

Subject:

Hi Nicola,

Why is the theatre industry being mistreated again? 1 metre or a mask??? When you can go to a nightclub. Bit mental imo. Look forward tae hearing ur reason Nicola pal.

Yours sincerely, [redacted]

202100236116 1 September 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: 01 September 2021 18:57

To: Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP <Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>

Subject: Covid passports for nightclubs and concerts in Scotland

Dear Ms Sturgeon

I am writing to you to express my deep disappointment at your decision to propose vaccine passports at concerts and night clubs, as reported by the BBC today.

As someone who has voted passionately for the SNP and supported independence in Scotland, I have really lost confidence based on this decision and others during the pandemic. I had always thought of the Scottish Government as a body whom supported diversity, equality and freedom of choice. This sadly no longer seems to be the case.

Making a decision to implement passports causes division amongst the population, especially when we know the vaccine DOES NOT prevent transmission or contagion completely. Wouldn't testing be more appropriate in this situation rather than completely excluding those who choose not to be vaccinated? Or offering anti-body testing? This is a breach of human rights at best, to exclude this percentage of the population indefinitely!

I wonder where this will stop? When the vaccine is rolled out to children, will children be excluded from school and sports clubs because they do not wish to have a vaccine that, quite frankly, they do not need? Studies have proven that children are not spreading this virus in the way adults are and yet they are blamed at every turn.

This approach feels very totalitarian and I wonder about the future freedoms, if any, for people who do not wish to have the vaccine.

Are we never going to be allowed to travel or socialise again?

I am horrified and afraid of the type of country we are now living in and despair that a Government I was proud to have are proposing this.

Yours Sincerely

[redacted]

[redacted]

202100237234 2 September 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thu 02/09/2021 10:56
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Subject: Allow negative tests/proof of covid for nightclubs!!!

Dear Nicola sturgeon,

Following your recent announcement on vaccine passports for gaining entry to nightclubs/pubs I have never felt more disappointed in the Scottish national party.

Allow negative tests/proof of covid for nightclubs!!!

From the start of this pandemic you have always said you would not enforce this rule as it's everyone democratic and human rights to choose whether to get this vaccine. Considering there has been a huge amount of adverse reactions from this vaccine and there is a survival rate of 98% forcing people to have a drug that has long term data is disgusting. Although you are saying people aren't being forced, as "going out" isn't essential, so many young people like myself are being singled out and isolated due to this new rule which will only lead to more problems such as anxiety/depression which our nhs cannot cope with.

I have had covid and had little to no side affects which I know isn't the case for everyone, but it's predominantly young people using these nightclubs who are actually less likely to suffer badly from covid. I recently went on holiday and everyone double vaccinated were allowed to walk on the place with no tests (I had to be tested which I support) even though they could be infected? This makes zero sense and you all wonder how variants from other countries are being brought to the uk?

I only needed a lateral flow to fly back to the UK but I can't provide one to gain entry to a nightclub? It's absolutely obscure! Having had covid I'm more protected by antibodies than any double vaccinated person yet you are giving double vacced individuals more freedom when in fact they are all still catching/spreading this virus! Everyone should be tested before events/flights etc or we will never get out of this nightmare.

I can assure you even double vaccinated individuals find this ridiculous and shouldn't need to prove to a bouncer their medical records.

You will loose so many votes and support with this decision. For someone who has always voted for you and supported the party when they didn't even deserved it, I can promise you that you will not receive my vote in the future if you do not allow at least testing/proof of covid to be an option to enjoy everyday life. isolating and singling out individuals is morally wrong especially after how difficult this year has been and forcing young people to have a vaccine that doesn't even seem to be working and could lead to long term issues that haven't yet been seen because it's not been around long enough is sickening.

Regards,
[redacted]

Sent from the all-new AOL app for iOS

202100238590 5 September 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: 05 September 2021 12:01

To: Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP <Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>

Subject: Transmit

Dear Nicola

I was wondering if you could advise, I have been trying to get a refund from transmit due to the rising numbers of covid.

My father in law has had liver transplant my own father is just out of hospital and we also look after my husband elderly grandparents, all of which are high risk.

I am scared to go out, I only go out for work, for food shopping and to help my family.

I bought the tickets 2 years ago and kept the tickets in good faith, the bands are not all the original bands. All that aside I paid £500 for these tickets, this is a lot of money to my family and I.

Transmit will not refund my money as I've explained my mental health has not been great with the fear of covid.

I am scared to go, with the rising numbers and the danger that I would be putting on my family and my work place.

I understand that the entertainment industry are trying to get back on their feet. I feel they are putting many lives at risk by forcing people to go to so they do not lose out on their hard earned money, especially after the year they have had of isolation and many people not getting paid.

Can you please give me your thoughts on this.

Many thanks [redacted]

[redacted]

Get Outlook for Android

202100238426 – 6 September 2021

From: [redacted]

To: Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot <nicola.sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>

Sent: Monday, 6 September 2021, 02:47:15 UTC

Subject: Cancel TRNSMT Please

Dear Nicola

I am sending you this email to ask that you consider cancelling TRNSMT or a further year.

Sadly one of my best friends is now unable to attend because her mother is at end of life care due to her not receiving the cancer treatment that would have extended her life due to treatments being cancer in line with COVID-19.

Whilst I appreciate this had to happen I am then puzzled as to why such an event is taking place with such high numbers of infection in Scotland at this time?

My best friends has had the worst 2 years I would not wish on anyone with losing her father also. She soon will have neither of her parents at the age of 37.

Although it will not bring back either of her parents I would like for her to have good things in her life to look forward to & if you were to cancel TRNSMT she would have that next year.

I know a lot of people may not be pleased & financially there would be a lot of repercussions, but is that not better than more lives lost for the sake of having a festival that can go ahead again another time?

I hope you can consider my ask of you with your heart as a human being to another & that you can use your mind & power in the position you are in to take decisive action.

Please cancel TRNSMT.

Kind regards
[redacted]

202100238343 8 September 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: Wed 08/09/2021 19:50

To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>

Subject: Require negative tests, not vaccination, for nightclubs.

Dear First Minister,

My girlfriend and I both currently have COVID despite being fully vaccinated. She works in a bar here in [redacted]. All of her colleagues at the bar are vaccinated and all have had COVID in the last couple of weeks - except one, likely the origin of the outbreak, who claims it was "just a cold".

Based on this personal experience, it seems to me that the rate of COVID transmission in nightclubs must be very high even amongst those who are fully vaccinated. Requiring that nightclub patrons show proof of vaccination will not stop them from being huge centres of virus transmission. Worse, there is a danger that patrons will be falsely reassured by knowing that everyone is vaccinated and imagine that the venue is safer than it really is. Literally everyone that I know who has had COVID has had it after being vaccinated!

With the start of the University term almost here, I feel that rather than this "vaccine passport" plan you should be seriously considering closing nightclubs and similar venues entirely. If some sort of "passport" is to be introduced, let it be a proof of a recent negative test. If necessary, get nightclub patrons to do lateral flow tests in a waiting area before they are allowed in.

Yours,

[redacted]

P.S. it occurs to me that venues could offer "whisky tasting" tests - if you can't smell the whisky, you're not coming in! We confirmed that we had COVID, not "bad colds", when my girlfriend could no longer smell her Laphroaig.

202100239763 9 September 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: 09 September 2021 11:28

To: Swinney J (John), MSP <John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot>

Subject: ID Passport

CAUTION: This e-mail originated from outside of The Scottish Parliament. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr Swinney,

There is NO doubt that the Scottish Government is try to keep as all safe from this horrendous covid.

You Motion today states nightclubs which I understand and in Glasgow nightclubs open at 9pm till 3 or 4 am however how about the pubs that open after midnight till 2.30am should they not be asked to take part in the passport scheme or is the Scottish Government just hitting nightclubs again.

Yours Sincerely

[redacted]

Sent from Mail for Windows

202100240998 12 September 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: 12 September 2021 18:45
To: Yousaf H (Humza), MSP <Humza.Yousaf.msp@parliament.scot>
Subject: Security staff at TRNSMT festival.

Hello Humza,

General comment.

I am forwarding an email I have sent to the [redacted].

I really hope [redacted] are not in charge of any events for COP26.

Hello [redacted] and thank YOU for your response.

As a family, we are down from [redacted] for a wedding dress fitting.

Staying at the [redacted] seemed a handy place for the dress shop nearby.

My family only stayed one night, and the staff at the [redacted] are utterly hacked off with the attitude of your delegates, as well as having to tidy up their take away packaging every morning and night. The big concern for me is the blatant disregard for surrounding, from not following scottish government advice, to the hotel staff having to tidy up their take away packaging as the delegates don't know how to use bins, apparently.

I have also written to [redacted], and I am in 2 minds to contact a good couple of friends who are with [redacted].

It's brilliant that festivals are back on, but part of that up here in Scotland is providing proof of a negative LFT. I'm just trying to imagine the [redacted] shipped up from Manchester and Liverpool actually giving a damn about this, but smoking weed before work???

I know people who work for [redacted] in Scotland and I can assure you, when I tell them of this behaviour I am sure they will be shocked.

Also just for general comment, As a family, my sister and I have been Covid free, and have worked very very hard to keep my parents Covid free over the last 2 years.

If any member of my family gets ill after the behaviour of [redacted] staff not wearing face covers inside the hotel and not following advice from hotel staff to create more space in the breakfast area, I will be holding [redacted] responsible and will expect [redacted] to conduct an internal investigation.

There are managers in amongst your delegates as one of them had masks to hand out to staff when my sister objected to the behaviour and total lack of respect to others around them.

The festival is, in my opinion, not a super spreader event.

[redacted] shipping belligerent staff all over the country, IS

At this point in time, I would actually like your delegates to do LFT and log the results, I am that concerned.

The population of Scotland is less than the population of London. You have an enormous responsibility here.

In Glasgow, we have COP26 happening in November. I will be writing to my MSP and making sure that [redacted] is not the company used to manage anything during the events.

Weed smoking staff, who refuse to follow guidance in charge of security with world leaders in attendance?

Doesn't sound good does it?

Many thanks for your email [redacted]

I will look forward to hearing about the resolution.
Best

[redacted]
[redacted]

202100240693 13 September 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: Mon 13/09/2021 09:07
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Subject: COVID ID cards

Dear First Minister

I am writing to ask that you abandon your plan to make people have to publish details of their health status in exchange for entry to large events and nightclubs.

There is nothing more I can say other than I don't want this and don't see why we should have it when other parts of the country will not. You need to govern in the interests of the people, which means a joined up approach so that we can live our lives freely across these islands.

I don't hold out hope that you'll listen to moderate voices like mine but I felt compelled to write to you.

I'll be financially supporting any legal challenge against these measures, should that be necessary. And whilst it's none of your business, or the staff member reading this, I've had both my vaccines. This isn't about being "anti-vax" it's about protecting the things we hold dear in our country and a proportionate response to the pandemic - your scheme fails to do either.

Thanks

[redacted]

202100241979 20 September 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: Mon 20/09/2021 22:27

To: SG Complaints <SGComplaints@gov.scot>

Subject: Closure of Libraries and other community venues in Glasgow

I would like to record a very strong complaint about the above closures.

Glasgow Life is responsible for many buildings which are vital to tourism. Edinburgh tourist venues are maintained by central government. Surely if Glasgow Life had some contribution from the Central government then these venues which are vital to poorer people will open again.

Children need these venues to meet their friends in a safe environment. They need somewhere to study and do homework. Older ones need the libraries for job seeking which is necessary to stay on benefits. We all need libraries to increase our knowledge and for relaxation purposes.

We have previously seen the closure of sports fields, swimming pools and tennis courts which affects the same demographic.

The Scottish Government swore to decrease the number of children in poverty and to date the number has actually risen.

I urge you to intervene and reverse this disastrous plan which if it goes ahead will be a disgrace in a civilized society.

[redacted]

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

202100241820 – 20 September 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: Mon 20/09/2021 16:07
To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>
Subject: Rules for Nightclub Entry

Hi there,
I'm sorry to bother you with an email, but I'm struggling to find the information online. Basically, I've organised a Stag Do in Edinburgh for weekend 5th/6th/7th November as I figured this would be a much safer option than travelling into Europe. We're all from England. Scotland is introducing COVID passports for nightclubs/adult entertainment venues next month.

- How will this affect us?
- Will we be able to visit these types of venues given that we've had our vaccinations in England?
- What if one of the group hasn't had their vaccines yet or is unable to prove they have?

I apologise again for getting in touch this way, but everything seems rather confusing and up in the air.

I look forward to hearing from someone soon.

Kindest Regards,

[redacted]

Best Man

202100241115 21 September 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: 21 September 2021 [scanned letter]

To: Public Engagement Unit

Subject: COVID vaccinated yet excluded from cultural events etc

Message Body:

I am an SNP voter. A Scottish national and resident. I have two doses of Pfizer yet I am to be excluded from sections of society.

I recently returning to live in Scotland from the UAE. I have a fully verifiable vaccine passport issued by Dubai Health Authority yet I cannot access a vaccine passport.

I returned to Scotland to spend time with friends and family including attending events such as rugby matches, plays, concerts of which I have bought tickets.

Yet I will not be allowed access to venues because I have not been vaccinated in Scotland.

The SNP have had at least a year to figure out how to implement a covid passport that works for nationals, residents and tourist. It seems a huge failure that there is no solution for people like myself who have had the vaccine but will still be excluded.

How and when do the SNP propose to deal with this?

It's ridiculous that UK nationals and Scottish residents cannot attend events but the government intends to host the world at a climate conference.

How will the delegates access the Scottish COVID passport regulations and abide by the rules that we have to? How will tourists contribute to the economy when they can't enjoy shows? Hogmanay celebrations? Concerts and festivals?

Im angry with the SNP. I expect better from them than the rest of the UK and more foresight for such situations.

202100243009 21 September 2021

From: [redacted]

Sent: 21 September 2021 07:21

To: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

Subject: School trip to the theatre

Dear Education Secretary,

Technology is amazing isn't it, I am very happy that one pro to this pandemic has been the heightened use of technology in the classroom. It has definitely inspired me. However what is inspiring our young children? Technology is a great resource, but what about actually testing real life? Leaving the classroom and the confinement of our homes where we spent so much time in lockdown must be key to improving our students wellbeing right? It would improve confidence and show our students that there is more than just their back garden or local park to explore.

I am talking about taking students to the theatre and the governments stance on this. My school have the opportunity to see a live performance within a theatre, something many of the students in my school have never done. I would like to know the governments stance on taking students to the theatre during these times.

Please let me know the governments stance on this s soon s possible.

[redacted]

202100242522 23 September 2021

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thu 23/09/2021 19:08
To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>
Subject: EU covid pass for events and nightclubs

Dear Scottish government,

Will the EU covid pass be accepted in Scotland from the 1st of October for large events and nightclubs?

I am fully vaccinated in an EU country and have an EU digital vaccine certificate to prove my status.

Thank you,
[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone