

British Dance Council

Limited by Guarantee Registered in England No. 502695 - Established 1929

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Member of: The World Dance Council - The Sport and Recreation Alliance

The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
10, Downing Street, London.

7th May 2020

Mr. Prime Minister Boris Johnson

Re: Fairness for the Self-Employed and Freelancers in the Creative Industries throughout and on exit to Coronavirus Crisis.

We wish to convey thanks to you and your team for the work you are doing to protect people and our community throughout this unprecedented Coronavirus Pandemic. The important schemes you have in place to support the self-employed and freelancers in this country are exemplary. Personal wishes are sent to you for a full recovery from the virus.

We are writing to ask if any further provision for the self employed and freelancers will be made available. Many are slipping through the net, not covered by your schemes, and to what extent they will be helped or affected in consideration by the back to work timetable shortly to be proposed.

Our business is about entertainment, enjoyment, health and wellbeing. Projections point to the entertainment and leisure industry being one of the last to return to work. Many of our members through no fault of their own, do not qualify for any scheme you have set up. Many do however, contribute to the United Kingdom economy through direct and indirect taxes, earning enough for a living wage, and keeping them from claiming any form of Government credits.

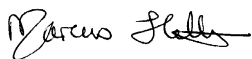
With their business' now taken away, which is possibly for many more weeks to come, the industry the public look towards for relaxation and wellbeing will die.

We appreciate that developing a scheme to cover the complex and varying circumstances of self-employment is difficult, but one would hope there is no justification for self employed workers to not receive the same level of support as the employed throughout this Coronavirus Crisis.

The creative industries contribute over £100billion to the UK economy and are vital to our culture and global identity. We note the German Government are initiating 50 billion for the arts, to maintain a cultural integrity, ' the creative courage of creative people can help overcome the crisis ' quoted from the German culture minister.

When this crisis is over, our industry will have a very relevant, vital presence if it survives, and will be at the forefront of our well-being and health. We ask you, please give thought to the many thousands in our dance industry who feel rejected by their own government.

Yours sincerely,



MARCUS HILTON MBE
President and Chairman



NICHOLAS MILES
Vice President and Vice Chairman

