

The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AA

**18<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

**UK's Concert and Event Hauliers – Urgent Intervention Needed to Avoid Widescale Collapse of the Sector**

Dear Prime Minister,

The UK's events industry contributes £70 billion to our economy and relies heavily on long established specialist hauliers.

Our departure from the EU poses risks and immense challenges that cannot be overstated to the UK's concert and events haulage industry and we ask you, as Prime Minister, to give your immediate attention and support to these matters.

After a year of Covid-19 stopping all entertainment, concert tours and events these essential suppliers, with an over 80% European market share, are facing collapse. The risks also extend beyond these haulage companies, without specialist concert and events trucks, hundreds of suppliers employing thousands of skilled crews will no longer be able to provide their services around Europe on music tours undertaken by UK and international musicians. The UK's pre-eminent and dominant position in live music, across all musical genres and scales of production, will be lost as other service and equipment suppliers follow the move offshore.

Our proposed solution, in the first instance, is to call on your Government to seek an EU-wide easement so that UK registered concert haulage trucks may continue to make multiple stops across Europe. The post-EU Exit cross trade and cabotage restrictions are unworkable as they only allow three stops before a truck must return to its UK base. This limitation will stop the delivery of European concert tours. A 'Cultural Easement' would allow them to continue undertaking EU-wide movements for concert and event industries.

Simultaneously, and in the event that the implementation of this easement is delayed, we ask the UK Government to provide support in three ways:

1. Short-term financial support to ensure that event haulage companies can continue trading and prepare their drivers with all the necessary documentation to work in Europe. HGV drivers will have to obtain European Driver Certificates of Professional Competence to drive in the EU as well as other required permits and permissions.
2. Provide grants to UK concert and event hauliers to create bridgehead operations within an EU Member State. This would give them the 'last resort' option of registering their trucks with EU licence plates to allow improved cabotage and cross trade movements across all EU27 States. It would also help mitigate the additional costs of moving to a bridgehead operation offshore.

3. UK Government to confirm easement of our own domestic cabotage restrictions to allow these newly registered EU cultural event and concert trucks to return and work freely in the UK. The Department for Transport has indicated that it would be prepared to move forward on that basis and a precedent is already in place within the car transporting sector.

This problem isn't just limited to rock and popular music, the classical music industry is also impacted. UK based orchestras like the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra operate their own vehicles that are temperature controlled and have fittings for the appropriate transportation of valuable and delicate instruments. These vehicles are extremely expensive and would be classified as own-account operators or restricted licence holders.

The same market access rules apply to them, limiting cross trade and cabotage movements. A way round this in the short-term while a cultural easement is being agreed, could be for orchestras to subcontract their tours or transfer their vehicles under contract to the GB-based hauliers that are able to set up an EU bridgehead operation as mentioned previously.

The RHA and the LIVE Touring Working Groups intention is to find solutions. We want to work with Government to sign post and support the concert and events industry to help navigate the new relationship with Europe on cross trade and cabotage and a host of other matters with the aim of simplifying and reducing processes, fees and bureaucratic friction wherever possible.

Following the pandemic there will be high demand for events including exhibitions, festivals, concerts and live music - but this will only be possible if specialist hauliers exist across the continent.

Your immediate support will ensure that the UK retains its ability to service this industry in the future and help to save thousands of jobs and livelihoods in the process.

**Signed by:**

Richard Burnett, Chief Executive, Road Haulage Association  
Andy Lenthall, Production Services Association  
Mark Pemberton, Director, British Association of Orchestras  
Jamie Njoku-Goodwin, CEO, UK Music  
Craig Stanley, Promotor, Marshall Arts Ltd  
Greg Parmley, CEO, LIVE (Live music Industry, Venues & Entertainment)  
Phil Bowdery, Chair, The Concert Promoters Association  
Annabella Coldrick, CEO, Music Managers Forum  
Mark Davyd, CEO, Music Venue Trust  
Kevin Appleby, Chair, British Association of Concert Halls  
Steve Heap, General Secretary, Association of Festival Organisers  
Dave Keighley, Chair, Production Services Association  
David Martin, CEO, Featured Artists Coalition  
Greg Marshall, GM, Association for Electronic Music  
Lucy Noble, Chair, National Arenas Association  
Paul Reed, CEO, Association of Independent Festivals  
Tarquin Shaw Young, President, The Entertainment Agents Association

## **Concert and Event Hauliers:**

Stuart McPherson & Andy Bell, KB Event  
Natasha Highcroft, Transam Trucking  
Ollie Kite, EST UK  
Robert Hewett & Steve Berry, Stagetruck  
Thomas James Bielby, Star Movement Ltd  
Kevin Mooney, Stardes  
David Coumbe, Fly by Nite  
Terry Goodwin, Conference Haul International  
David Barnes, Events Transport Ltd  
Kevin Webb, Event Ground Support Services Ltd  
Mark Brockhurst, Paul Mathew Transport  
Ross MacGillivray, FMX Event Services Ltd  
Jamie Bruce & Warren Symonds, Gravity Media  
Chris Eames, CEI  
Brian Yeardley, Brian Yeardley's  
Alistair Pugh, London Venue Transfer Ltd  
Frazer Bell, Frazer Bell Touring  
Jason Abbott, Freemans Event Partners  
Graham Tatterton, Shuttle Transport  
John Henry, Jamie Henry 's  
Dani Haines, FCL Event Logistics Ltd  
Ed Cooper, Director Blue-i Theatre Technology Ltd  
Scott Maher, Jumbo Express Ltd  
Rael Hancock, Dry Hire Lighting  
Finn Rasmussen, Interfreight  
Rob Burford, LANG UK  
Martin & Simon Lett, S & M Lett Haulage  
Keith Austin, Event MS  
Scott Pulleyn, Pulleyn Transport Ltd  
Nick Dew, Really Creative Media Ltd  
Sharon Tea, Rockstar Logistics T/A Crossland  
Malachy McMullan, Rockstar Logistics T/A Crossland  
Paul Clegg, Rockstar Logistics T/A Crossland  
Hamish Jenkinson, The Department

**CC.** The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer,  
The Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP, Secretary of State for Transport,  
The Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport,  
Kwasi Kwarteng MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy,  
Caroline Dinenage MP, Minister of State for Digital and Culture