



Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

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Ms Pauline Woods-Wilson
president@morrised.org.uk

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Dear Ms Woods-Wilson,

Thank you for your correspondence of 26 October, regarding the arts and the Covid-19 pandemic. I am replying as a member of the Ministerial Support Team at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

The government recognises the huge contribution the arts and cultural sector makes, not only to the economy and international reputation of the United Kingdom, but also to the wellbeing and enrichment of its people.

We appreciate that this is an incredibly challenging time and that there are many cultural organisations and professionals who are currently facing difficult and uncertain circumstances. We are very alert to the issues, and are working to find solutions that support this vital sector.

New national restrictions

From Thursday 5 November until Wednesday 2 December, new national restrictions will be in force in England to control the spread of coronavirus. During this period, performing arts venues can continue to operate under Stages 1 and 2 of the performing arts roadmap. This means:

- performing arts professionals may continue to rehearse and train, and perform for broadcast or recording purposes
- other than for this purpose, theatres, concert halls and entertainment venues must close
- professional dancers may continue to use dance studios
- non-professional activity, such as amateur choirs and orchestra, cannot take place where any staff can work from home, they must do so

Further guidance on performing arts can be [found here](#). Please note that this guidance is for organisations in England. Organisations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland should adhere to the advice of the devolved administrations at all times.

Support packages

In regards to economic support, the government announced the unprecedented £1.57 billion support package for the culture sector which is now reaching organisations across the country. This funding is benefitting the arts and culture sector by supporting organisations to survive the pandemic and continue operating. You can keep up with the latest on the [Culture Recovery Fund here](#).



Guidance from each of the administering bodies can be found at the following links:

[Arts Council England](#)

[Historic England](#)

[British Film Institute](#)

[National Heritage Lottery Fund](#)

Please find the most up-to-date information on the [government's other support packages](#), including information for freelancers and job support schemes.

Any further steps to support the economy will be dependent on the state of the epidemic at the time and the trajectory of cases being stable or remaining in decline. We remain in close contact with the creative and cultural sector to understand the impact of the economic support to date and inform how we approach support in the future. We urge you to revisit these websites in order to keep up to date with any new developments.

Guidance for educational activities

Guidance for teachers, school leaders, carers, parents and students on continuing educational activities can be [found here](#), with specific reference to extra-curricular activities [detailed here](#).

Out-of-school, organised activity can continue to operate with protective measures in place. This includes dance classes, gymnastics training, football training, uniformed youth organisations such as Scouts, Guides and cadet forces, private language schools, supplementary schools and religious settings offering education e.g. madrassahs, yeshivas and Sunday schools. Please find [further detail here](#) on the full list, who can attend after-school clubs and the protective measures required in after-school clubs.

Reopening of the sector

In regards to the reopening of the sector, the government has always been clear that moving forward with the performing arts roadmap is dependent on the prevalence of COVID-19. Due to the vast quantity of correspondence we receive as a department, we are unable to offer bespoke advice to individual cases. We understand this may be frustrating. We would advise that the best way to keep up to date with the situation is through [the government's website](#) which is updated as soon as new measures and advice are agreed. We urge you to revisit these websites to keep up to date with any new developments.

More information about the current measures and how they may affect you, can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Thank you for your continued support, creativity and resilience at this hugely challenging time.

Yours sincerely,

Francesca Martin

Ministerial Support Team

