



Department for  
Digital, Culture,  
Media & Sport

Rt Hon John Whittingdale OBE MP  
Minister of State for Media and Data  
4th Floor  
100 Parliament Street  
London SW1A 2BQ

E: [enquiries@dcms.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@dcms.gov.uk)

[www.gov.uk/dcms](http://www.gov.uk/dcms)

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Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP  
[bennh@parliament.uk](mailto:bennh@parliament.uk)

Our Ref:  
MC2020/17287/RC

Dear Hilary,

Thank you for your correspondence of 24 July to the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, the Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP, on behalf of a number of your constituents, regarding support for dance music clubs and the #LetUsDance Campaign. I have been asked to reply on the department's behalf as the Minister for Media and Data. Please accept my apologies for the delay in replying to you.

DCMS appreciates the important contribution of the night time industries including nightclubs to the UK's cultural economy, and that the Covid-19 pandemic presents a significant challenge to many businesses operating in these sectors.

The Secretary of State announced a major £1.57 billion support package for key cultural organisations to help them through the coronavirus pandemic. This funding will provide targeted support to organisations across a range of cultural and creative sectors. This support package will benefit cultural sector services by providing support to venues and many other cultural organisations that host live events, to stay open and continue operating.

As part of this support package, £3.36 million has been shared among 135 venues across England who applied for the Emergency Grassroot Music Venues Fund. This funding has supported grassroots venues to survive the imminent risk of collapse caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Funded venues include Motion (Bristol); Night People (Manchester); and Village Underground (London) which are also nightclubs or venues which host club events.

The Arts Council have published guidance on eligibility for this Cultural Recovery Fund. More information about the fund can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/funding-available-through-the-culture-recovery-fund>.

We are committed to continuing to work with the music and cultural sectors to understand the difficulties they face and help them access support through these challenging times and through recovery. The Minister of State for Digital and Culture chairs the Events and Entertainment Working Group where she discusses these issues directly with the stakeholders across the creative and cultural sector.

With best wishes,

Rt Hon John Whittingdale OBE MP  
**Minister of State for Media and Data**



