

## State of Play: We want to hear from you

### Share your views

The Culture, Media and Sport Committee wants to give everyone across the world of culture, media and sport the chance to suggest themes or sectors that we should look into.

- What difference could a one-off session make to your work? Let us know. We will be considering:
- Whether this is a topic that falls wholly or mainly within the responsibility of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport
- Whether the Committee, Government or other relevant body has recently undertaken work on this topic
- What impact the Committee and Government can have in dealing with the issues being raised
- The breadth of support from the relevant sector(s)
- The urgency of any potential action
- Whether the proposal can be considered effectively in a single evidence session
- Information or summaries of submissions may be published by the Committee.

This form will be open until 23:59 on Friday 21 February.

It will reopen later in 2025 in order to give you further opportunities to submit your views to the Committee.

#### **1. What is the topic that you want the Culture, Media and Sport Committee to examine?**

1.1 The lack of Art Form policies has manifested itself in many ways: in the problem that arose concerning opera in the last National Portfolio funding round. It is crucial that the funding system develops Art Form policies, separately, for music, theatre, dance, etc. and funding decisions should be guided by these policies.

For the avoidance of doubt in the Arts Council England's last funding round for the year 2023/2024, 49% of the music allocation went to opera, 24% to classical music, 0.40% to folk music, 0.50% to brass bands and 2% to jazz.

1.2 Arts Council England's Lottery Project Grant Scheme requires an overhaul to make it fit for purpose. The current use of lottery funds to support the growth of National Portfolio Organisations needs urgent attention to redress the imbalance by restoring adequate levels of funding to the National Lottery Project Grants Scheme.

1.3 Ensure that the Arts Council England's Supporting Grass Roots Music programme is focussed on grass roots music venues instead of broadening the scope, and thereby diluting the crucial need to fund grass roots venues.

Grass Roots Music Venues - Ensuring jazz promoters and small-scale venues are supported and that new promoters are encouraged and trained.

#### **2. What are the challenges or opportunities that require consideration?**

2.1 There has been little change over the years and funding has been distributed under the bounded rationality of the past. It is crucial that separate art form policies are developed to ensure an equitable distribution of funds.

2.2 There has been a 49% increase in the numbers of NPOs since 2015. The subvention from the DCMS has been supplemented by lottery funds.

The core concept of "additionality" appears to have been diluted and the lines have become increasingly blurred at the expense of the musician, band, dancers, touring theatre and so forth applying for National Lottery Project Grants. Lottery funds have been diverted to support an increase in the number of National Portfolio organisations.

Set out below are statistics gleaned from Arts Council England documents and freedom of Information Inquiries.

From 2012 to 2016 the average success rate for jazz awards against all music applications was 4.4%.

From 2018 to 2023 the average success rate of jazz awards, as a percentage of all total eligible applications, was 1.2%.

2.3 The success rate of Jazz applications to the Supporting Grass Roots Live Music Fund 2022/23 was 2%.

### **3.To what extent are these challenges or opportunities shared across DCMS sectors?**

3.1 Lack of art form policies are shared across all sectors- a lack of art form policies means that the Arts Council is not held to account, The Arts Council and the Department for Media and Sport in their "Participation Survey" have dispensed with statistics on art form and demographics. 49% of the Arts Council England's music budget went on opera and they don't know how many people attend opera in the UK nationally and regionally.

3.2 Lottery funding is shared across all sectors for individuals and organisations.

3.3 Grass roots venues are shared across the majority of the music sector

### **4.What is the role for the Government and/or Parliament in dealing with these issues?**

4.1 Art form policies will provide a measurable framework for funding and for growth

4.2 If the government wants to achieve growth in the arts and music in particular they must get to grips with the diverting of lottery funds into NPOs. Band and musicians are touring throughout the UK.

4.3 If the government wants to grow the music sector then funding of grass roots venues is crucial and essential. The grassroots venue is the launch pad for emerging bands and remerging bands.

### **5.Are there any upcoming deadlines, milestones or other time considerations the Committee should be aware of (excluding the Government's Spending Review and Industrial Strategy)?**

The Arts Councils next funding round for National Portfolio Organisations takes place in 2026. So, the sooner art form policies are in place and lottery funding is directed to its original purpose and increased investment is found for grass roots venues the better

### **6.Is there any other recent or upcoming work from governments, trade bodies or other relevant organisations on these issues?**

The Music Venues Trust, UK Music and the All Party Parliamentary Jazz Group should be your first port of call.

Chris Hodgkins  
20<sup>th</sup> February 2025