



Baroness Barran

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House of Lords,
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My Lords,

Thank you to those of you who participated in the House of Lords debate on the importance of educational trips and exchanges on 25th April 2024. I said I would write to you on the specific matter of musical exchanges.

The government recognises the importance of educational trips and exchanges abroad. These can play a key role as a valuable learning experience, not only in the study of languages, but across the curriculum. These opportunities help build a generation of confident, globally-minded and outward-looking young people better able to operate and thrive in a connected world and a global economy.

As members will know, the government has a long-standing commitment to ensuring that high-quality music education is not the preserve of the wealthy, but the entitlement of every single child. This is reflected in the Government's refreshed [National Plan for Music Education \(NMPE\)](#). The refreshed Plan sets out the Government's vision to 2030 to enable all children and young people to learn to sing, play an instrument and create music together, and have the opportunity to progress their musical interests and talents, including professionally. The Plan was jointly published between the Department for Education and the Department for, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) in June 2022.

A licence must be obtained before children and young people up to age 16 can take part in certain types of professional or amateur performance. The licensing system is designed to provide a check that those responsible for such activities make suitable arrangements to safeguard the children involved. Producers and organisers have a responsibility to ensure that each child is kept safe and that their education does not suffer.

For children and young people who are due to perform overseas, a licence must be obtained from a Magistrate where they reside. The relevant legislation for this can be found at Section 25 of the Children and Young Person's Act 1933 (see [Children and Young Persons Act 1933](#)). The issuing of licences for children performing abroad for profit does not fall within the remit of local authorities. We are currently considering if changes are appropriate to this area through powers available to us from the Repeal of European Union Law Act 2023 and are working with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

More broadly, as I have stated previously, the government is committed to supporting touring artists and the wider music industry to adapt to new arrangements following our departure from the European Union (EU). We have worked with the sector and directly with Member States to clarify what creative workers need to do, and it should be noted that the majority of EU Member States, including the biggest touring markets such as Spain, France, Germany and the Netherlands, have confirmed they offer visa and work-permit free routes for some short-term touring activities.

We will continue to engage with industry to understand the challenges facing the sector and options to address these issues.

I hope this letter has been useful and I will place a copy in the House Libraries.

Yours sincerely,



BARONESS BARRAN

MINISTER FOR THE SCHOOL SYSTEM AND STUDENT FINANCE