



Department for Culture, Media & Sport

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Lord Cashman
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

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Dear Michael,

This government is committed to maintaining a world-leading environment for the creative industries, recognising the vital role they play in contributing to both the economy and our rich cultural landscape.

We will not be introducing fast-tracked visas specifically for creatives at this time. There are a number of routes that provide opportunities for skilled individuals to come to the UK.

The UK's [domestic rules](#) allow musicians, entertainers and artists (and their technical staff) from non-visa national countries, such as EU/EEA nationals to perform in the UK without requiring a visa. This means that not only can they come to the UK to give performances, but they can take part in competitions, auditions, make personal appearances and take part in promotional activities for up to six months visa-free under the visitor route, as long as they are not receiving payment from a UK source other than prize money or expenses.

Musicians, entertainers and artists from non-visa national countries can also come to perform in the UK and receive payment without the need to obtain a visa in advance, for up to six months if performing at Permit Free Festivals, ranging from Green Man to Glyndebourne.

Within the Standard Visitor route, payment is permitted if individuals are taking part in a (PPE) [Permitted Paid Engagement](#). This allows a professional artist, entertainer or musician to carry out an activity directly relating to their profession, if they have been invited by a creative organisation, agent or broadcaster based in the UK, within thirty days of arrival into the UK. There is no requirement now for PPE visitors to hold a separate 'PPE visa', however the engagement must be arranged prior to individuals and groups travelling to the UK.

These changes have been made to enable easier switching between PPE activities and other permitted activities under the visitor route such as business-related pursuits. It also facilitates easier travel for creatives from eligible e-gate nationalities including EU/EEA nationals to enter the UK without the need of having their passports stamped by border officials.



Additionally, the [Creative Worker visa](#) allows a professional artist, model, entertainer or musician (applicable to all nationalities) to carry out activity directly relating to their profession, if they have a Sponsor who is licensed by the Home Office and has assigned a Certificate of Sponsorship to the individual. These individuals can come to the UK under this route for up to twelve months, and in the case of non-visa nationals specifically, for up to three months under the [Creative Worker visa concession](#). This would therefore allow EU/EEA nationals to work visa free in the UK for a maximum period of three months under this particular route.

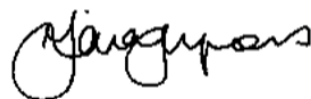
The Home Office also already offers priority services where visa applicants are able to pay to receive a decision on their application within five working days or the next working day depending on which service is used. Further information can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/faster-decision-visa-settlement>.

We are committed to continuing to work closely with stakeholders to better understand their needs and challenges within the immigration system. This includes exploring ways to better streamline the processes within existing frameworks, to ensure the UK remains an attractive destination for global creative talent, and the best place in the world to make films.

I will deposit a copy of this letter in the Libraries of both Houses.

With best wishes,



Baroness Twycross
Minister for Gambling