

24 April 2021

To:

Boris Johnson MP

Keir Starmer MP

Ian Blackford MP

Ed Davey MP

Liz Saville-Roberts MP

Letter on Covid status certification (vaccination, testing and antibodies)

We welcome the announcement from the Prime Minister that the Government's roadmap for easing restrictions remains on course, and that step 2 started as planned on 12 April.

The creative industries are the beating heart of society, providing jobs and entertainment to people of all ages, and we are committed to working with the government to ensure a return to normality across our sectors. The prospect of reopening gives us much hope, as a continuation of restrictions threatens additional financial pressures on the sector.

We strongly support the Government's ambition to return to full capacity audiences without restrictions as soon as possible, and we recognise that this can be only be achieved through gathering evidence that it is safe to remove or lessen restrictions, including looking at how Covid status certification could aid the reduction of social distancing. We understand that this approach would involve either proof of vaccination, a negative Covid test or an antibody test to allow access to a venue. We are clear that this approach **must not** rely only on proof of vaccination, and also that it must only be a temporary measure, only used for as long as necessary.

We are also clear that this approach must not be discriminatory, should protect privacy, and have clear exit criteria. If all of this holds true, then we are very much supportive of the continued exploration of this possibility to bring life back to normal as soon as possible.

We look forward to working with the Government and all interested parties, including our stakeholders and audiences.

Adjoa Andoh - Actor

Simon Russell Beale - Actor

Alex Beard - Chief Executive, Royal Opera House

Melvin Benn - Managing Director, Festival Republic

Barbara Broccoli - Film Producer

Sarah Connolly - Opera Singer

Marianne Elliott - Theatre and Film Director

Daniel Evans - Artistic Director, Chichester Festival Theatre

Ralph Fiennes - Actor

Nicholas Hytner - Director, Bridge Theatre

James Graham - Playwright

Kwame Kwei-Armah - Artistic Director, Young Vic

Adrian Lester - Actor

Andrew Lloyd Webber - Composer and Producer

Lesley Manville - Actor

Jamie Njoku-Goodwin - Chief Executive, UK Music

Simon Rattle - Conductor, Music Director London Symphony Orchestra

Tamara Rojo - Artistic Director, English National Ballet

Tom Stoppard - Playwright

Meera Syal - Actor