Address: By email

Date

Dear (MLA)

I am one of your constituents and work as professional (add employment status and your job role/s) in the performing arts sector. I am writing to ask for your help as I have lost all my work and income due to Covid-19.

**You may wish to share information on the impact of COVID 19 on your income, on you professionally and on anything else that you feel is relevant and may wish to share.**

**You may wish to add what your experience has been of navigating the various government support if relevant, including the Arts Council of NI AEP scheme.** i.e.I received/did not receive funding under the Arts Council of Northern Ireland Artist Emergency Programme. This fund has now closed.

It is clear to me that we will be one of the last industries to resume regular activities and when those activities in the performing arts sector recommence, it will be with severely diminished capacity due to social distancing and other restrictions. The ability for me, therefore, to earn an income as a worker in the industry is very uncertain for the foreseeable future.

As your constituent and as a professional working in the sector, I am asking you to please contact Minister Carál Ní Chuilín to ask that additional funds to be made immediately available to the Arts Council of Northern Ireland for flexible emergency hardship funding to ensure that not one independent creative worker is left without immediate financial support.

Urgent changes are required to the current government support measures which continue to exclude many of us who work as professionals in the performing arts industries. I am unable to access this support because (add why) and have received little or no income now for several months and have no idea how much work will be available as the lockdown is lifted. I need you to work with other members of the NI Executive to find an immediate solution to enable all professional creative workers to access government support the same as workers in other industries.

Please write also to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak MP to extend the government support schemes to enable me to access the financial support to help me survive this crisis.

I am also asking you how can we work better together to address this crisis?

I look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely

XXX