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To the attention of The Rt. Hon Jacob Rees-Mogg
Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0ET
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Dear Secretary of State,

I write on behalf of the Business Visits and Events Partnership (BVEP), representing the UK Events Industry, to warmly congratulate you on your appointment as Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

The UK Events Industry is of critical importance in supporting the delivery of the government's growth agenda and providing a highly competitive and productive platform for UK businesses to do business. Recognition of this has led to your Department taking a growing interest in the wider economic benefits of business events. These generate trade, exports, inward investment, regeneration, knowledge exchange and scientific and technological innovation, as well as providing a showcase for Britain on the global stage. This is the result of the UK having resilient, highly innovative, world-class conference, exhibition and trade fair sectors that are estimated to generate £165 billion of trade transactions annually from both UK and international businesses. Business events offer small businesses an affordable and convenient opportunity to market their products and services to a global audience.

Additionally, events are key to driving the recovery of the tourism economy, in which attendance at events in the UK accounts for over half of all visitor's spend. This is currently estimated to be worth around £50 billion. However the Industry is targeting to build back to pre-pandemic levels in excess of £70 billion within the next eighteen months.

The Industry's Recovery Plan sets out new initiatives that will improve the already strong offer of the UK as a world destination of choice for meetings, conferences and exhibitions, so that it can retain its unrivalled position as the world's meeting place. Current initiatives include measures that will prioritise events in the Government's target economic and business sectors.

The Industry strongly believes there is considerable merit in viewing the business events sector as part of the UK's business services sector and fully embracing these opportunities within your Department's remit. There are significant untapped opportunities which would support the Government's objectives for the growth of the economy, if the Events sector was given a more strategic role in the delivery and implementation of government policies. This does require more consolidation of resource across Government Departments, as several including, BEIS, DIT, DCMS, and the Cabinet Office, together with agencies such as the Arts Council, UK Sport and VisitBritain are key stakeholders in this process too. Such a review may well help the current process of securing further government efficiencies.

Representatives of the BVEP hope you would agree to discuss further how the opportunities from business events can be even more greatly leveraged to support the Government's agenda and meet your Department's policy objectives.

In the meantime, I wish you every success in your new role.

Kindest regards,

Michael Hirst OBE

BVEP Lead – Advocacy & Government Relations



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About the BVEP

The Business Visits and Events Partnership's (BVEP) vision is to support sustainable growth for the UK's £70 billion UK Events Industry. BVEP's mission is to support growth across the entire sector via advocacy, networking, collaboration and a collective voice.

BVEP's objectives are to:

- Operate an umbrella organisation to represent, promote and further the interest of member organisations involved in the United Kingdom Events Industry
- Advance the interests, standing, quality, sustainability and growth of the United Kingdom Events' Industry
- Seek greater collaboration across the Events' Industry sectors on common issues
- Forge close links with Government departments, including devolved Governments where possible via representation that can influence favourable policies towards the Industry. In particular, maintain strong relationships with key sponsoring departments, DCMS, DIT and BEIS
- Seek a stronger link with the Creative Industries and other related sectors
- Encourage joint events
- Increase the focus on professionalism and skills development.

BVEP PARTNERS

Association of British Professional Conference Organisers (ABPCO)
Association for Events Management Education (AEME)
beam (formerly HBAA)
Business Travel Association (BTA)
Core Cities
Events Industry Alliance (EIA)
Events Industry Forum (EIF)
Event Marketing Association (EMA)
Event & Visual Communication Association (EVCOM)
International Congress & Convention Association (ICCA)
London & Partners
Meet in Ireland
Meetings Industry Association (MIA)
Meetings Professionals International UK & Ireland (MPI)
National Outdoors Events Association (NOEA)
Production Services Association (PSA)
Professional Convention Management Association (PCMA)
Professional Lighting and Sound Association (PLASA)
Tourism Northern Ireland
Unique Venues of London (UVL)
VisitBritain/VisitEngland
VisitScotland
Visit Wales.

Supporting Government Bodies

Department for Digital, Culture Media and Sport (DCMS)
Department for International Trade (DIT).