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To the attention of The Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP

Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road,
London SW1A 2HQ

Dear Chancellor,

I write on behalf of the Business Visit and Events Partnership (BVEP), representing the UK Events Industry, to warmly congratulate you on your appointment as Chancellor of the Exchequer and to offer support in delivering the Government's key objective of greater economic growth.

The UK Events Industry drives business activity across the United Kingdom. Business events provide a highly competitive and productive platform for UK businesses to do business. They 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. The UK has 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.

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 visitors' 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 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.

To this end I have written on behalf of the Industry to the Secretaries of State at DCMS, BEIS and DIT, all Departments which have an interest in ensuring that the utilisation of both business and leisure events is aligned with their priorities. I have also written to the Rt. Hon Edward Argar, Cabinet Office Minister with responsibility for cross-government and public sector transformation and efficiency, as the Industry believes there is much to be gained from greater consolidation of resource and activity across several Government departments and agencies.

The Industry wishes you and the Government much success in delivering a more prosperous economy and a more successful United Kingdom and will do all we can to help in this endeavour.

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).