

1<sup>st</sup> March 2022

The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
11 Downing Street  
London SW1A 1AB

Dear Chancellor

### **Red Diesel Legislation**

I am writing on behalf of the outdoor event industry and with the support of the Business Visits & Events Partnership to ask for our industry to be allowed to continue using red diesel after 1<sup>st</sup> April in line with an agreement that the Treasury has already made for fairs and circuses, which are very much part of our industry.

There are a number of strong arguments for this:

- Through the pandemic our industry has been seriously impacted with many businesses unable to obtain Government support with the consequence that a number of suppliers have ceased trading or had to sell off their equipment stock to survive. This is now causing shortages as well as inflation across the sector.
- Many event organisers and suppliers have no cash reserves left to cover the additional costs they are facing – the additional cost of having to use white fuel just exacerbates the situation.
- The industry is facing serious manpower shortages which are adding further cost inflation to the organisation of events.
- Many event organisers are trapped in a situation where they need to honour ticket sales made prior to the pandemic and have no way of offsetting the rising costs they face from suppliers.
- By their nature, most outdoor events take place in greenfield sites where there is no established infrastructure which means that they are reliant on generators and other equipment that require fuel.
- The agreement for circuses and fairgrounds to continue using red diesel creates an anomaly as many events include circuses and fairgrounds. While these will be permitted to continue using red diesel, those providing generators for stages – the key entertainment at many events – will have the added burden of having to use white fuel.

- There is no prospect, particularly following the pandemic, of the industry being able to switch to greener energy sources in the near future and, at least, until the sector is able to get back on its feet which is not likely to happen in 2022.
- The additional costs of white fuel mean that customers attending events in future will find a considerable hike in ticket prices in future as our industry will have no option but to pass this additional cost on to consumers.
- The current rising cost of fuel generally, heightened further by the situation in Ukraine, will exacerbate the situation still further.

While we recognise that the UK economy has been hugely impacted by the pandemic and needs to recover its reserves through taxes, our industry needs time to get back on its feet and source cleaner alternative energy sources for the future. Hence, we are writing to ask for our sector to be granted a deferment for 5 years to allow this to happen.

This also makes sense from a Treasury/Tax perspective as research shows that, in normal times, our industry generates over £30 billion in Gross Added Value per annum (Bournemouth University study published in 2019). Help with this now will make a difference to our ability to recover quickly.

We very much hope that you will give our industry the help it needs to get back on its feet.

Yours faithfully

Jim Winship  
 Secretary  
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Copied to:

- Rt Hon Boris Johnson, Prime Minister
- Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister, Scotland
- Rt Hon Mark Drakeford, First Minister, Wales
- Rt Hon Nadine Dorries, MP, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport
- Julia Lopez, MP, Minister of State for Digital & Culture
- Rt Hon Nigel Huddleston, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Sport, Tourism, Heritage and Civil Society
- Hon Julian Knight, MP, Chair Digital, Culture, Media & Sport Committee
- Rt Hon Kwasi Kwartang, MP, Secretary of State, Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
- Hon Theresa Villiers MP, Chair of the All-Party Group for Events
- Robert Largan, MP, Member Chair of the All-Party Group for Events

- Owen Thompson, MP, Member Chair of the All-Party Group for Events
- Andrew Slaughter, MP, Member Chair of the All-Party Group for Events
- Stephen Hammond, MP, Member Chair of the All-Party Group for Events
- Rachel Hopkins, MP, Member Chair of the All-Party Group for Events
- Debbie Abrahams, MP, Member Chair of the All-Party Group for Events
- Mark Menzies, MP, Member Chair of the All-Party Group for Events
- Tom Dammers, DCMS
- Alexandra Gillespie, DCMS
- James Haworth, DCMS
- Sarah Bayliss, DCMS
- Members of the Events Industry Forum
- Michael Hirst, Events Board
- Editor of Stand Out magazine
- Editor of Access All Areas

### **EIF Member Organisations**

Association of Festival Organisers  
 Association of Independent Festivals  
 Association of Show and Agricultural Organisations  
 Association of Stage Pyrotechnics  
 British Air Display Association  
 British Pyrotechnic Association  
 Business Visits and Events Partnership  
 Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity  
 Event Hire Association  
 Event Supplier and Services Association  
 Institution of Occupational Safety & Health  
 Local Authority Event Organisers' Group  
 Made Up Textiles Association  
 National Outdoor Events Association  
 National Caterers' Association  
 National Police Chief's Council  
 National Traction Engine Trust  
 Outdoor Arts UK  
 Portable Sanitation Europe  
 Professional Lighting & Sound Association  
 Rugby Football Union  
 The Concert Promoters Association  
 The Event Services Association  
 The National Centre for Resilience Learning and Development (EPC)  
 The UK Crowd Management Association

### **BVEP Partners**

ABPCO - Association of British Professional Conference Organisers

AEME - Association for Events Management Education  
beam  
BTA  
Core Cities  
EIA - Events Industry Alliance  
EIF - Event Industry Forum  
EMA - Event Marketing Association  
EVCOM  
IASB - International Association of Speakers Bureaus  
ICCA - International Congress & Convention Association  
London & Partners (formerly Visit London)  
Meet in Ireland  
MIA - Meetings Industry Association  
MPI - Meeting Professionals International UK and Ireland Chapter  
NOEA - National Outdoor Events Association  
PCMA - Professional Convention Management Association  
PLASA  
PSA - Production Services Association  
TNI - Tourism Northern Ireland  
UVL - Unique Venues of London  
Visit Wales  
VisitBritain  
VisitScotland's Business Events  
**GREAT Campaign**