

John Penrose MP  
Tourism Minister  
Department Culture, Media and Sport  
2 – 4 Cockspur Street  
London  
SW1Y 5DH

21 March 2011

Dear John

I understand that the government has agreed to support Tim's Private Members Bill on live music, subject to a number of caveats being addressed in the legislative process. As you know from our previous conversations, councils are very concerned about the potential impact of the Bill.

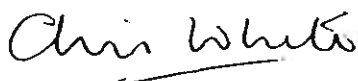
The Local Government Group fully supports efforts to lower barriers to putting on live music, and we have worked with you and your predecessors on positive and practical measures to increase live music within the current licensing regime. However, ideally this should not be at the expense of denying local people a voice in the licensing process for live music, and a failure to consider factors other than the size of crowds, which might cause a public nuisance or endanger public safety.

I would welcome an early discussion with you about how we can address councils' significant concerns as you start to develop the Bill with Tim.

I also feel a discussion on tourism and heritage would be very timely. I read with great interest the government's new tourism policy, the aim of which councils fully support. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss further the role that local enterprise partnerships are starting to play in tourism and how we can incentivise public sector investment in the visitor economy at a time of severe budget pressures.

On heritage, I'd like to update you on our new joint programme with English Heritage, to help local historic conservation services adapt, modernise and continue to improve through a time of budget reductions.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Chris White  
Chair Local Government Group Culture, Tourism and Sport Programme Board