



9th March, 2020

The Rt Hon Nigel Huddleston, MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary
Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport
100 Parliament Street
London
SW1A 2BQ

Dear Minister

I am writing to ask if we could arrange an urgent meeting to discuss the potential impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) on the outdoor event industry.

As shown by research carried out last year by Bournemouth University, the UK outdoor event industry contributes £30.4 billion in Gross Added Value to the UK economy and provides work for some 589,000 people.

The vast majority of those operating in this market are small or micro businesses who do not have the resources behind them to survive if the sector is unable to function due either to enforced closures or substantially diminished attendances as a result of public concerns over this virus. Indeed, just today we have heard of the cancellation of the Ireby Festival this May.

For many, this scenario will result in their businesses being forced to cease trading and, in some cases, personal bankruptcy.

Unlike major events, such as football matches which can continue to be televised behind closed doors and realise at least some revenue, outdoor events cannot function without the attendances they rely upon.

Many of our members are extremely scared by this situation. Hence, we would urgently ask for an opportunity to meet Ministers to discuss the implications.

Our organisation represents 25 trade, enforcement and educational bodies across the outdoor event sector.

We very much look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

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