



House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
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Dear Colleague

In October I was appointed Shadow Minister for Culture, Media and Sport, with specific responsibility for the Arts and Creative Industries, amongst other areas. Harriet Harman MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, and myself, have spent the last few months meeting with hundreds of people across the industries to learn about the issues facing the sector.

It has become clear to us, in a short space of time, how important these industries are both economically and culturally.

The Creative Industries are a key part of the fabric of our communities – from our local theatre groups, to the video games we play at home, to the cinema and gigs we visit with our friends and family.

During the course of our meetings, it has also become clear that whilst Britain is a world leader in this field, there is still significant potential for growth and improvement, especially within certain areas of the industry.

A number of topics keep reoccurring and as a result we will be working on a “Vision for Growth for the Creative Industries” with you, and colleagues, over the coming months.

I would be very grateful if you could spend a few minutes answering the questions below which will inform this piece of work.

Your Details

Name:

Business (if applicable):

Email Address:

Your Work

1. Which area of the Creative Industries do you work in?
2. Do you work as a freelance artist, performer or designer, or as part of a business?
3. If the answer is yes to Question 2, when did you set up your business?
4. If the answer is yes to Question 2, how many people do you employ?

Recruitment and Skills

5. At school/ college/ university did you study skills which are now applicable to your work today?



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6. In your work, either as a freelance artist, performer or designer, or as part of a business, do you believe that it is easy to find individuals with the skills needed in your area?
7. If applicable, do you employ any young people (16 – 24) in your business?
8. On a scale of 1-10, how important do you believe it is to include the arts and creative subjects within the core curriculum of schools (10 being the most important)?
9. Do you, in your work as an individual artist, performer or designer, or as part of a business, engage with any schools, colleges, or local arts organisations with young people?

Starting Out

10. As an artist, performer or designer, or as part of a business, when did you start working in the Creative Industries?
11. Did/ Do you receive support (apart from financial) in setting up a business/ starting out in the Industry?
12. Do you believe that more support (apart from financial) is needed for those starting out in the Creative Industries?
13. If you answered yes to question 12, please give more details about what is needed.

Copyright Theft

14. Do you use the internet as a tool to promote/ sell your trade or business?
15. If you answered yes to Question 14, how has the internet affected your work and business?
16. If you answered no to Question 14, why not?
17. How important do you believe the internet is for your area of the industry on a scale of 1 – 10 (10 being the most important)?
18. Have you been affected by a lack of regulation on the internet?
19. Have you conducted any research into the effect on your personal or business profit as a result of copyright theft? Any documents you can provide on this would be useful.

Global Competition

20. In your work as an individual artist, performer or designer, or as part of a business, have you exported your product outside of the UK?
21. Do you believe that your area of the Creative Industries is subject to global competition?



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22. If you answered yes to Question 21, do you believe that the UK is keeping up with global competition?
23. Do you believe that your part of the Creative Industries is under threat from global competition?
24. As a result of increased competition, have you ever considered relocating your business to outside the UK? If yes, please give details.

Access to Finance

25. For your work either as an individual artist, performer or designer, or as part of a business, have you needed to access finance from government grants?
26. For your work either as an individual artist, performer or designer, or as part of a business, have you needed to access finance from local government?
27. For your work either as an individual artist, performer or designer, or as part of a business, have you needed to access finance from high street banks?
28. If you answered yes to Questions 25, 26 or 27, have you experienced any problems with accessing finance?
29. What is your perception of how easy it is to obtain finance within the Creative Industries?
30. Since the economic recession, has accessing finance become more difficult?
31. If you answered yes to Question 30, please explain this in more detail.
32. Do you receive any other government support not mentioned in this questionnaire?

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I would be grateful if you could send any response by Tuesday 31st January 2012 to my Assistant at Kamella.hopkins@parliament.uk.

I am keen that we work together with this work as much as possible so please let me know if there are any other important issues you feel I should be aware in the Creative Industries, or if you have any additional research which you believe may be of use.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if there is ever anything I can do to help, and I look forward to hearing from you.

With very best wishes,

Dan

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