

**Live Music Forum Meeting  
23 February 2006 at  
DCMS, 2-4 Cockspur Street, London  
Minutes**

**Attendees:**

**Chair**

Feargal Sharkey

**Members**

Alan James	Arts Council England
Jim Mawdsley	Generator North East
John Smith	Musicians' Union
Deborah Clarke	Action with Communities in Rural England
Claire Whitaker	Serious
Chris Taylor	Performing Right Society
Mark Ringwood	Roots Around The World
Victoria Todd	National Campaign for the Arts
Cheryl Davies	Department for Education and Skills (in place of Angela Overington)
Pamela Bates	British Beer and Pub Association (in place of Martin Rawlings)
Andy Williams	Welsh Music Foundation
Pete Jenner	Sincere Management
Rachael Rogers	Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services
Robin Osterley	National Music Council
Stephen Godsall	Local Government Association (Bournemouth)

**Guests**

Steve Taylor	Musicians' Union
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**DCMS**

Paul Aley	Music Branch
Suzi Daley	Music Branch
Andy Thomas	Music Branch
Marianne Siponmaa	Music Branch
Jason De Bono	Licensing Team
Lucy Blackburn	Licensing Team
Mandy Stevens	Licensing Guidance Review Team
Sarah Partridge	Evidence and Analysis Unit
Mark Devane	Press Office
Philippa Staff	Arts Division

**Apologies**

Martin Hopewell	Primary Talent International
Dr Martin Rawlings	British Beer and Pub Association
Angela Overington	Department for Education and Skills
Marc Jaffrey	Music Manifesto

**Agenda Item 1: Introduction and minutes of last meeting**

The Chair suggested as the agenda was full the meeting moved straight to agenda Item 2.

**Agenda Item 2: Presentation on initial findings from MU research (John Smith and Steve Taylor)**

John Smith explained the background to the Musicians' Union's 'State of the Nation' research which had been commissioned to assess the impact of the Act at ground level. The research comprised two stages. The first, which was presented at the meeting, covered the initial findings; the second would be a more analytical study designed to uncover the evidence in greater detail. Steve Taylor gave a short presentation of the initial findings.

The Forum agreed that more analytical work was needed to uncover the evidence in greater detail and agreed to assist the MU wherever possible.

The Chair suggested that the next round of research by the Forum should look in greater detail on the experiences of smaller venues during the transitional period. It should look at both those venues who had previously held a PEL and those who had previously operated under '2 in a Bar.' Members agreed with this proposal as long as it did not preclude carrying out the more full and robust follow up to the MORI research at some stage. The Chair confirmed that the Government had committed to following up on the original research.

**Action:** DCMS to convene an initial 'brainstorming' meeting between DCMS officials and LMF members to work up structure and content of research questionnaire (since done).

Robin Osterley said the bureaucracy and costs for Temporary Event Notices may be causing some problems. This was backed up by Deborah Clarke from ACRE who said that some village halls were finding the new arrangements more burdensome.

**Action:** The impact of the Act sub group (see Agenda Item 3 below) to assess how TENs are working.

**Agenda Item 3. Forum's future working groups:**

As agreed at the February meeting, the Forum would be supported by two sub groups one looking at issues around the impact of the Act, and the other at the Forum's remit to promote live music in its broadest sense and would begin drafting each section of the Forum's final report. The Chair confirmed that these groups would report back to the main Forum meetings which would continue to be held every two to three months.

The Chair said there had already been a lot of work done on the promotion of live music and the group (Chaired by Jim Mawdsley) should focus on priorities to ensure firm recommendations are put forward to Ministers.

The group looking at the impact of the Act should pick up on the work of the Licensing Sub Group as well, and should, in particular, focus on what happened to smaller venues during the transitional period.

**Action:** The Chairs of sub groups to arrange meetings as soon as possible and to feed back to 4 May LMF (date of meeting changed to 12 May).

#### **Agenda Item 4 - Cost implications of work**

The Chair reminded the Forum that it was important that Ministers were made aware of any costs which would result from their recommendations, and the two working groups should bear this in mind when formulating their proposals. He suggested the group looking at the promotion of live music, in particular, should make this one of their first objectives.

**Action:** The two sub-groups to give urgent consideration to the cost of their proposals and to inform the Chair and Secretariat as soon as possible.

#### **Agenda Item 5 - Interim review of Guidance**

Mandy Stevens explained that there were two stages to the review of guidance. The aim of the initial review, running from December to March, was to produce supplementary guidance that would clarify areas where there was a broad consensus, consolidate advice given in response to official correspondence and correct errors/update references, etc.

The second stage would involve a full public consultation on proposed changes to the guidance by the summer, and production of a revised version of the guidance by autumn 2006. The full review would address more complex or contentious issues that could not be dealt with in the initial review and revise the format of the guidance to make it more user friendly. The licensing team was currently analysing submissions from stakeholders on the initial review to assess whether issues could be addressed in the initial or full review of guidance, or would require changes to the legislation.

The Interim Guidance Submission paper has now been submitted by the Forum to the Minister.

The Chair summarised the issues outlined in the draft submission paper circulated to members at the meeting.

**Action:** LMF to provide statement on Incidental Music by May LMF meeting.

**Action:** Forum to decide whether it wants to suggest changes to the guidance to clarify Incidental Music by May LMF, and if the Forum thinks the issue is important enough to consider making interim recommendations.

**Action:** Members to let Chair and Rachel Rodgers (LACORS) know of any problem LAs and they will continue to investigate.

### **Agenda Item 6: Interim Recommendations and feedback on Two in a Bar Working Group**

The Chair explained that the three key issues for small venues remained: (i) applying for variations; (ii) definition of Incidental music; and (iii) noise,

Action: The Forum to consider whether to make interim recommendations on key issues for small venues.

### **Agenda Item 7: Research**

#### i. Proposed research on local economic impact of live music- update;

DCMS said the feasibility study had gone out to tender and the study should begin by end of March. The Chair said if the outcome was positive, the Forum would either need to fund a full research project or include a recommendation in its final report that the Government should do this. The Chair said he was addressing Regional Development Agencies in March on the economic importance of live music.

#### ii. Second stage of live music survey;

This was covered under Item 2 above.

Action: DCMS to send date around for meeting to draw up survey questions (since done) and to prepare brief for May meeting.

### **Agenda Item 8: Publicity and events:**

#### i. Radio One seminars

The Chair reported that plans for these sessions were still to worked up but the plan was for Jim Mawdsley, the Minister and himself to sit down in front of an audience of young musicians to hear their experiences of live music. The feedback received might help inform the Forum's final recommendations.

#### ii. Vodaphone live music award

The Chair said that the Awards would take place in October and would be broadcast on Channel 4. The launch, which may be attended by the Minister, would be held in the Spring.

Action: Members to put forward ideas for event to ensure it covers all genres.

#### iii. Report back and follow up from WOMAD/Reading Council/LA event

The feedback from those who attended this event from both Local Authorities and festivals was very positive, and there were already some LAs who were beginning to license their own land following the event.

#### iv. LACORS/LMF Advice Shop 15<sup>th</sup> March

The Chair said this event was being held in collaboration between the Local Authorities Coordinating Office on Regulatory Services (LACORS) and LMF to give festival organisers the chance to ask questions and obtain advice at first hand from local authority representatives on how to complete the application forms, and other issues relating to the application process, such as Temporary Event Notices. The event will also follow on from the WOMAD/Reading event, in that it will give LAs the opportunity to explain some of the more innovative approaches they've taken to licensing public land for the provision of live music. (Unfortunately, due to lack of numbers this event has subsequently been postponed).

#### v. Launch of Wrexham rehearsal space

The Chair reported that the launch had been a great success and that other LAs had shown an interest in replicating this in their area. Andy Williams said there had been lots of media interest and the facilities were booked up without the need for advertising. He said the East Midlands was just one of the regions interested in setting up a similar event.

It was also suggested that there needed to be a development programme to ensure those young people using these spaces learned what steps they needed to take to make music a sustainable career.

**Action:** Andy Williams to draft a case study to be used by Forum members and others who are seeking to set up rehearsal spaces.

**Action:** Chair to try and get RDAs to assist in spreading this concept across the country, and Chair and DCMS to raise with Graeme Hitchen from Creative London when they meet.

**Action:** The promotion and development team to draft a professional development programme.

#### Agenda Item 9: Ticket Touting

DCMS outlined latest position and agreed to keep members informed of next steps.

#### Agenda Item 10: Managed Migration

Members reported back on the positive meeting between the Home Office, National Campaign For The Arts and a small live music delegation which had re-assured the industry that their views were being taken seriously. DCMS reported that Home Office had agreed to set up an Arts and Entertainment Taskforce as well as a One-off stakeholder group.

**Action:** DCMS to ensure relevant members are invited to taskforce and stakeholder meetings, and to let them know when they are taking place.

**Action:** NCA to circulate to LMF the Home Office response to their submission paper.

**Agenda Item 11 – AOB**

Robin Osterley suggested that the LMF should submit views on Lottery consultation. It was agreed that the Chair should register on DCMS website and comments should be fed through him.

Action: DCMS to re-circulate copy of lottery consultation

**Date of Next Meeting**

4 May at DCMS at 2.30pm (since changed to 12 May at 2.00 pm)