

THE BLUE ROOM

THE ENGINE ROOM

STATION ROAD

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3rd 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 1st 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](https://www.businessvisitsandeventspartnership.com/partners/95-abco-association-of-british-professional-conference-organisers)

[AEME - Association for Events Management Education](https://www.businessvisitsandeventspartnership.com/partners/100-association-for-events-management-education-aeme)

[beam](https://www.businessvisitsandeventspartnership.com/partners/105-hbba-hotel-booking-agents-association)

[BTA](https://www.businessvisitsandeventspartnership.com/partners/617-core-cities-2)

[Core Cities](https://www.businessvisitsandeventspartnership.com/partners/304-core-cities)

[EIA - Events Industry Alliance](https://www.businessvisitsandeventspartnership.com/partners/102-eia-events-industry-alliance)

[EIF - Event Industry Forum](https://www.businessvisitsandeventspartnership.com/partners/103-eif-event-industry-forum)

[EMA - Event Marketing Association](https://www.businessvisitsandeventspartnership.com/partners/360-ema)

[EVCOM](https://www.businessvisitsandeventspartnership.com/partners/104-eventia)

[IASB - International Association of Speakers Bureaus](https://www.businessvisitsandeventspartnership.com/partners/837-iasb)

[ICCA - International Congress & Convention Association](https://www.businessvisitsandeventspartnership.com/partners/106-icca-international-congress-convention-association)

[London & Partners (formerly Visit London)](https://www.businessvisitsandeventspartnership.com/partners/156-london-partners)

[Meet in Ireland](https://www.businessvisitsandeventspartnership.com/partners/234-meetinireland)

[MIA - Meetings Industry Association](https://www.businessvisitsandeventspartnership.com/partners/157-mia)

[MPI - Meeting Professionals International UK and Ireland Chapter](https://www.businessvisitsandeventspartnership.com/partners/158-mpi)

[NOEA - National Outdoor Events Association](https://www.businessvisitsandeventspartnership.com/partners/159-noea)

[PCMA - Professional Convention Management Association](https://www.businessvisitsandeventspartnership.com/partners/162-pcma)

[PLASA](https://www.businessvisitsandeventspartnership.com/partners/836-plasa)

[PSA - Production Services Association](https://www.businessvisitsandeventspartnership.com/partners/254-psa)

[TNI - Tourism Northern Ireland](https://www.businessvisitsandeventspartnership.com/partners/160-nitb)

[UVL - Unique Venues of London](https://www.businessvisitsandeventspartnership.com/partners/838-uvl)

[Visit Wales](https://www.businessvisitsandeventspartnership.com/partners/166-vw)

[VisitBritain](https://www.businessvisitsandeventspartnership.com/partners/418-vb)

[VisitScotland's Business Events](https://www.businessvisitsandeventspartnership.com/partners/165-vs)

**GREAT Campaign**