

Cross-Party Group on Music

8 September, 2021, 18.30

Minute

Present

MSPs

Michelle Thomson, MSP

Clare Adamson, MSP

Claire Baker, MSP

Non-MSP Group Members

Kenneth Taylor (St Mary's Music School)

Matthew Whiteside, (The Night With)

Mae Murray (Music Education Partnership Group)

Hilary Brooks (SWIM)

Jenna Main (ABRSM)

Jason Edwards (SMIA)

Alan Morrison (Creative Scotland)

Carol Main (LMNS)

Kirk Richardson (EIS)

Adam Behr (Univ of Newcastle)

Karen Dufour (New Music Scotland)

Shonagh Stevenson (HITS)

David Francis (TMF)

Matt Brennan (Univ of Glasgow)

Rab Noakes (MU)

Donald MacLeod

Stuart Fleming (PRS for Music)

Allan Dumbreck (Univ of West of Scotland)

Paul MacAlinden (Glasgow Barons)

Rick Bamford (Drake Music Scotland)

Richard Greer (Academy of Music and Sound)

Apologies

None

Agenda item 1: Appointment of Office Bearers

Convenor: **Michelle Thomson**, MSP

Vice-Convenor: **Claire Baker**, MSP

Secretary: **David Francis**

A form has to be submitted to the Standards Committee in order to complete the registration process.

Agenda item 2

1. The formal business was followed by an informal meeting. **Jason Edwards** (SMIA) gave an update on how the music sector is beginning to recover from the effects of pandemic and shutdown. Activity is beginning to happen again from grassroots to arenas, stadiums and greenfield festival sites, meaning musicians, support staff, venue staff, freelancers are all able to work again for the first time in 18 months. It is a time of innovation and creativity, recognition for Scottish venues. Discussion has been taking place with Scottish Government about easing measures within the limits of continuing Covid safety.

There are concerns over the implementation of vaccine passports. Proof of vaccination should be joined by proof of a negative test or immunity as a means of limiting risk at live events. There is a concern over the definition of 'nightclub' and inconsistency over the application of the passport to venues of similar scale to nightclubs within the wider hospitality industry. A third concern is enforcing the passport in the light of capacity problems, principally staff shortages within the security industry.

The impact of any future lockdown needs to be mitigated by some kind of support for an industry in a weakened position with few cash resources to meet any potential further restrictions.

An invitation was extended to everyone on the group to attend the Scottish Album of the Year award at the Usher Hall on October 23.

In response **Donald MacLeod** expressed his unhappiness with the implementation of a scientifically unproven vaccine passport, something that will have a negative impact on an industry already on its knees. The industry has been ignored, and treated with contempt where it hasn't been. It will inevitably lead to closures.

Rick Bamford brought up the question of the limited effectiveness of many current ventilation systems and the feasibility of changing systems for spaces like recording studios and venues.

Mae Murray gave an update on music education on behalf of John Wallace (attached).

Carol Main asked about the implications of free instrumental tuition for the shape of music lessons, staffing and resourcing. **Shonagh Stevenson**: these questions are already being addressed by government, local authorities, and managers. **Karen Dufour**: how long term is the commitment? **Mae Murray**: it is a long-term commitment and may even be the subject of legislation.

Donald MacLeod: Does MEPG have any connections with Nordoff Robbins, the music therapy charity? **Mae Murray**: something that MEPG would welcome.