Local Government and Communities Committee

Planning (Scotland) Bill

Submission from Angus Robb

To Whom It May Concern I would like for Scotland to follow the UK Government’s lead, and implement Agent of Change into Planning Policy to help protect Scotland’s music venues.

As a director of Fat Sam’s music venue in Dundee, we have been promoting live music in Fat Sam’s since 1983. In that time we have hosted many Scottish and UK artists who have went on to become major international acts including Emeli Sande, Paulo Nutini, Biffy Clyro, Franz Ferdinand amongst many others. In the summer of 2017 a former office block next to Fat Sam’s was converted into a hotel. Within three weeks of opening the management of the hotel complained in the strongest possible terms to Licensing Standards Officers, The Licensing board and Dundee City Council to have the music reduced to a level which would make it unsustainable for us to continue. We had to undertake and fund major acoustic works at a cost of over £3000 which affected our live music budget for the remainder of 2017. It’s vital for the good health of the music industry that small venues exist and prosper to allow fledgling acts to make the first steps into the live arena.