Local Government and Communities Committee
Planning (Scotland) Bill
Submission from Carter Anderson

As long time fan of live music and the venues that support it, I believe the value of grassroots music venues cannot be overestimated, economically (to the increasingly important night time economy) and perhaps most importantly culturally, bringing life to their towns and cities in a way that few other 'arts' do. Beyond the circuit of touring acts, the lifeblood of many small, local venues is local bands, where the people on stage one week are often the people in the audience the next. They are one of the few remaining public stages for creating and expressing something new and unique, week in, week out. It doesn't require the patronage of a gallery or the expense of a theatre production, just a few mates, a few instruments, quite a few hours in a bedroom, garage or rehearsal room and the courage to put yourself out there.

That's why I'm encouraging you to follow the lead of the UK government and enact the Agent Of Change policy by Friday 2nd February. Please show your support for our existing venues by protecting them.