**IMPORTANT NOTE: This letter is for Sole Traders who are Freelancers**

**Please edit the sample letter to suit your circumstances.**

**Delete as appropriate.**  *Your headed paper or personal contact address.*

*Remember to include an email and telephone contact.*

MP’s Name

Address

*[You can find your local MP here:* <https://members.parliament.uk/constituencies/>

*The entry will tell you which address to write to, email contact address and how to address the MP in writing]*

Date:

Dear *Name of MP as stated on website*: <https://members.parliament.uk/constituencies/>

I work as a *[job description (one or more or other): e.g. Rigger, Sound Technician, Lighting Programmer, Stage Technician, Costume Dresser, Stage Manager, Production Manager]*.

I am a sole trader working as a freelancerand Iam employed on an event by event basis in the *[theatre, music, live performance, entertainments, or events industry.]* My skills and services contribute to the creative industries which include live events, TV, film, dance and theatre and which were worth £110bn to the annual economy as evidenced in the Government’s website [DCMS figures](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uks-creative-industries-contributes-almost-13-million-to-the-uk-economy-every-hour) and was the fastest growing sector in the UK.

I understand the measures that have already been announced by the Government but I am extremely concerned about the devastating effect the pandemic has had on my livelihood and the future survival of the industry in which I work.

I do not see how I shall be able to survive financially.

My personal situation is:

In the short term: *[Delete /edit as appropriate]*

* I am not working and I have no work planned for the future
* I have no income
* I am using my savings to live
* I estimate my savings will be exhausted in one week/month/two months/three months/before the end of lockdown
* I have applied for Universal Credit

In the long term: *[Delete /edit as appropriate]*

* I shall have to default on my mortgage
* I shall have to seek alternative employment
* I shall be unemployed and have to continue to claim universal credit

I understand how extraordinary and difficult the current circumstances are but if I am unable to receive more financial support I *[and my family]* will experience extreme hardship and I will be forced to abandon my current career.

The value of the sector in which I work is huge to the UK economy; please see below a summary of official supporting data collected nationally.

I feel the Government needs to immediately review the financial support for individuals in my situation who work in the entertainments industry, and consider implementing measures for both immediate and longer term support.

I do not think I shall be able to work again in my industry until 2021. I foresee that for the many employers, and therefore individual practitioners in my position, our current situation will persist long after lockdown ends.

I am asking for your help to ensure these issues are included in debates, letters and all the appropriate business of Parliament so that suitable measures to support those of us who find themselves in my position are developed and made available as quickly as possible. I need you to help raise awareness of my circumstances and the need for support. Please do not allow the essential role and human experience of people like me who provide a vital contribution to the technical sector, which is an essential contributor to the creative arts, to be forgotten. If you remove any constituent part this industry will fail, but collectively it makes an enormous contribution to the UK economy.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Self-Employed/Freelance*[Rigger, Sound Technician, Lighting Programmer, Stage Technician, Costume Dresser, Stage Manager, Production Manager]*.

**Further industry valuations.**

* The British Visits and Events Partnership (BVEP) report states overall events support half of the UK’s visitor economy with a total £70bn direct spend.
* The Live Music sector made a contribution of £1.1 billion (GVA) in 2018, according to UK Music’s latest Music by Numbers report. Overall, according to a [study by Bournemouth University](https://www.eventsindustryforum.co.uk/index.php/contributing-billions-to-the-uk-economy)3 last year, the outdoor event industry alone contributed £30.4bn (GVA), employing just under 600,000 people. It also identified that the workforce across these sectors, is made up of 72% self-employed freelancers.
* The UK Entertainment Technology industry that supplies events and entertainment and includes; manufacturers, distributors, rental & production, professional services, events companies, was valued at £1.36bn in 2018/2019, according to PLASA Industry Research 2019.
* A recent survey outlined by SOLT and UK Theatre states the total loss of income is estimated at £630 million to the theatre sector from a 12-week closure.