



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Rachel Reeves MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London, SW1A 2HQ

23rd January 2026

Dear Chancellor,

Business Rates Rises Threatening the UK Music Industry

We are writing to you as a group of Labour MPs to urge you to look again at the business rates regime for venues and studios in the music industry.

The UK Music industry is one of our most important cultural and economic assets, delivering world-renowned artists, venues, festival, studios and generating significant international soft power. In 2024, it contributed £8 billion to the economy.

Music venues and recording studios are vital to this success, forming the critical and irreplaceable infrastructure that underpins the sector, and embeds music within communities.

This government has rightly identified music as a key growth sector in its Creative Industries Sector Plan, and the £30 million Music Growth Package shows that this government is serious about supporting and growing the sector.

However, many of us have been contacted by constituents in recent months who use and run these critical music spaces, explaining that they will be severely impacted by the 2026 business rates revaluation, scheduled to take effect on 1 April 2026.

According to the Music Venue Trust, 84 grassroots music venues in England face rateable value increases of between 45% and 275% from 2025/26 to 2026/27. These increases do not represent marginal adjustments but existential threats.

Recording studios, will also be heavily affected, with the Music Producers Guild (MPG) citing average increase of 45%, and some studios looking at increases in excess of 90%, and one reporting an increase of over 400%.

A recent MPG survey showed that 100% of studios questioned were unable to pass on any cost increases to their clients, and 50% are considering closing in the next year.

In addition, recording studios face the further challenge of being excluded from the new lower Retail, Hospitality and Leisure (RHL) business rates multiplier that also comes into effect on April 1st. This is despite studios playing a comparable role pubs and venues in providing public-facing services and generating local economic activity and employment. Their exclusion further compounds the financial pressures created by the revaluation.

These increases pose a serious threat to the UK's music sector. The current business rates valuation system does not reflect the economic realities of music venues and recording studios.

We are therefore asking you to pause the implementation of the new rateable values on these spaces and work with the sector to develop a valuation methodology that more accurately reflects how they operate.

In addition, recording studios must be included in the RHL business rates multiplier so that they do not face the combined impact of higher rateable values and exclusion from the reduced rates multiplier.

Yours sincerely,

Anneliese Midgley MP, Member of Parliament for Knowsley, Member of the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee

Bayo Alaba MP, Member of Parliament for Southend East and Rochford, Member of the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee

Vicky Foxcroft MP, Member of Parliament for Lewisham North, Member of the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee

Dr Rupa Huq MP, Member of Parliament for Ealing Central & Acton, Member of the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee

Jo Platt MP, Member of Parliament for Leigh and Atherton, Member of the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee

Jeff Smith MP, Member of Parliament for Manchester Withington, Member of the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee

Alex Sobel MP, Member of Parliament for Leeds Central and Headingley, Co-Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Music

David Baines MP, Member of Parliament for St Helens North

Antonia Bance MP, Member of Parliament for Tipton and Wednesbury

Paula Barker MP, Member of Parliament for Liverpool Wavertree

Lee Barron MP, Member of Parliament for Corby and East Northamptonshire

Lorraine Beavers MP, Member of Parliament for Blackpool North and Fleetwood

Jonathan Brash MP, Member of Parliament for Hartlepool

Dawn Butler MP, Member of Parliament for Brent East

Ian Byrne MP, Member of Parliament for Liverpool West Derby

Dan Carden MP, Member of Parliament for Liverpool Walton

Sarah Champion MP, Member of Parliament for Rotherham

Stella Creasy MP, Member of Parliament for Walthamstow

Marsha de Cordova MP, Member of Parliament for Battersea

Neil Duncan Jordan MP, Member of Parliament for Poole

Cat Eccles, Member of Parliament for Stourbridge

Lauren Edwards MP, Member of Parliament for Rochester and Strood

Clive Efford MP, Member of Parliament for Eltham and Chislehurst

Barry Gardiner MP, Member of Parliament for Brent West

Amanda Hack MP, Member of Parliament for North West Leicestershire

Sharon Hodgson MP, Member of Parliament for Washington and Gateshead South

Patrick Hurley MP, Member of Parliament for Southport

Terry Jermy MP, Member of Parliament for South West Norfolk

Kim Johnson MP, Member of Parliament for Liverpool Riverside

Afzal Khan MP, Member of Parliament for Manchester Rusholme

Mary Kelly Foy MP, Member of Parliament for City of Durham

Noah Law MP, Member of Parliament for St Austell and Newquay
Clive Lewis MP, Member of Parliament for Norwich South
Justin Madders MP, Member of Parliament for Ellesmere Port and Bromborough
Kerry McCarthy MP, Member of Parliament for Bristol East
Abtisam Mohamed MP, Member of Parliament for Sheffield Central
Jess Morden MP, Member of Parliament for Newport East
James Naish MP, Member of Parliament for Rushcliffe
Connor Naismith MP, Member of Parliament for Crewe and Nantwich
Charlotte Nichols MP, Member of Parliament for Warrington North
Dr Simon Opher MP, Member of Parliament for Stroud
Toby Perkins MP, Member of Parliament for Chesterfield
Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP, Member of Parliament for Clapham & Brixton Hill
Marie Rimmer, Member of Parliament for St Helens South and Whiston
Cat Smith MP, Member of Parliament for Lancaster and Wyre
Nadia Whittome MP, Member of Parliament for Nottingham East
Mohammad Yasin MP, Member of Parliament for Bedford and Kempston