Dear *[name of your local MP],*

I live in your constituency at *[insert your address]*. I am writing to you to ask for your help as one of the 200,000+ freelance theatre workers, still not yet returning to work in the UK theatre industry.

Specifically, I am *[Something about your job and your current situation].*

The government’s announcement of a £1.57bn support package for Britain’s world-class cultural, arts and heritage institutions was met with relief by the theatre industry. We highly appreciate the support that came from MPs who listened, advocated for us and stood up for the UK’s theatre industry. *[If your MP was one of the many who spoke up for the arts or who spoke up for freelancers, please thank them]*

However, the announcement leaves a chasm of uncertainty about the future of the freelance theatre workforce who make up 72% of the industry. Theatre’s freelancers are the creative and technical heart of the industry, its innovators, and the people who make the work that you see on stage happen.

News of the financial support from DCMS and Treasury coincided with the publication of the[COVID-19: Routes to Recovery](https://www.freelancersmaketheatrework.com/study-routes-to-recovery) report. The report was compiled from data collected by over 8,000 respondents of The Big Freelancer Survey. It was shown to DCMS and Treasury as evidence in the lead up to the investment announcement. It sharply outlines the stark situation that Freelancers still face, even after the announcement from government last week:

**1 in 3 theatre freelancers did not qualify for any financial support**

**33% of all freelancers said they are likely to leave the industry** due to economic instability.

These numbers starkly rise for:

**Stage Managers who identify as people of colour (47%)**

**d/Deaf and disabled theatre workers (42%)**

We need you to keep fighting with us and for us on the following fronts:

**1.** **FURTHER SUPPORT FOR FREELANCERS UNTIL WE CAN RETURN TO WORK**

Clarification is needed to ascertain exactly how the £1.57bn support package will get distributed to and if any of it will benefit freelancers.

Only some Freelancers have been helped by the SEISS, CJRS or any other emergency relief so far. Those who have not been eligible need urgent support from the Government – they have gone *without any pay since March 2020.*

After August, NOT ONE freelancer will have any financial assistance. Our industry, lacking a clear Road-Map from the Government, will not be able to start up again until next year. For freelancers, the financial gap this leaves will force more people out of the industry, eroding a highly skilled, world-class workforce and inevitably contributing to the rising unemployment figures.

**2.**  **GIVE FREELANCERS A PLACE IN ALL DECISION-MAKING ABOUT THE ARTS**

It is essential that the freelance workforce is represented by a delegate in all discussions about the future of the theatre industry, but there is currently no freelance voice on the DCMS’ Cultural Renewal Task force.

Without freelancers in the decision making process (the key intellectual property creators of the industry), only a partial picture is being represented.

The decisions currently being made behind closed doors, away from freelancers, are key to the planning of productions reopening, the administration of all future government support and the artistic vision for the industry’s future.

It is the skill and hard work of freelancers that makes the UK theatre what it is: an economically robust, world leading industry. We have to apply our expertise and our ingenuity to navigating the industry through this difficult time.

I would be grateful if you could advocate for our support at this critical time.

Yours sincerely,

[your full name]