

## Westminster Media Forum policy conference:

### Next steps for UK music policy - copyright and AI, live music and touring, and priorities for sector growth

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> April 2026

\*\*\*Taking place online\*\*\*



WESTMINSTER  
MEDIA FORUM

Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Thomas Howard**, Westminster Media Forum
- 9.05 **Key considerations for supporting the UK music sector**  
**Dr Claire Mera-Nelson**, Director, Music, Arts Council England  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Strategic approaches to sustainable growth and sector wide resilience**  
**Tom Kiehl**, CEO, UK Music  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.55 **Implementation of the Creative Industries Sector Plan for the music industry - live touring, regional hubs, and grassroots funding**  
*strategic utilisation of the Music Growth Package | support for touring, mentoring and export opportunities for emerging artists | tackling funding pressures facing grassroots venues | role of the Cultural Exchange Coalition | deployment of funding for innovation and R&D | UKRI strategy for the creative and cultural economy | potential of the Creative Places Growth Fund for the music sector | marketplace diversity, independent labels and routes to financially viable touring and distribution | building on UK leadership role in international music markets | use of dormant assets funding to improve youth access to music facilities | skills investment | addressing mobility and visa-related barriers | sustainable live activity, green clauses and lower-carbon touring practices | the ticketing market and consumer protection, pricing and labelling practices*  
**Kevin McManus**, Head, UNESCO City of Music, Liverpool City Council  
**Anita Debaere**, Director, Pearle Live Performance Europe  
**Charlie Kemp**, Head, Creative Place and Interim Head, Business Solutions, Tees Valley Combined Authority  
**Silvia Montello**, CEO and Founder, VoiceBox Consulting  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.40 **The role of public service broadcasting in supporting the UK music industry**  
**Lorna Clarke**, Director, Music, BBC  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.05 **Chair's closing remarks**  
**Dr Claire Mera-Nelson**, Director, Music, Arts Council England
- 11.10 Break
- 11.20 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Alex Sobel MP**, Co-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Music
- 11.25 **'Potential for growth: the future of the recorded music market'**  
**Sophie Jones**, Chief Strategy Officer, BPI  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.50 **Next steps for metadata - standards, technology and supporting recognition and timely payment for creators in the music industry**  
**Scott Farrant**, Chair, Music Industry Technical Solutions Group, Intellectual Property Office
- 12.00 **Priorities for protecting the profession going forward - AI, IP and copyright protection, talent pipelines, and fair reward**  
*clarifying the scope and operation of the Creative Content Exchange | interaction with existing licensing models and broader remuneration frameworks | safeguarding creators' rights and IP | transparency in text and data mining | implications of the Copyright and artificial intelligence progress report | next steps under the Data (Use and Access) Act | collective licensing options and practical implementation | progress of the Creator Remuneration Working Group and voluntary industry codes | label-led measures on streaming pay | workforce priorities, including sector-specific training routes | responsible use of creative technologies and implications for professional standards and talent pipelines*  
**Natasha Mangal**, Legal and Policy Advisor, Creator Relations, CISAC  
**Cherry Fricker**, Executive Director, National Centre for Early Music  
**Deborah Annetts**, CEO, Independent Society of Musicians; and Chair, Creators' Rights Alliance  
**Professor Mykaell Riley**, Director, Black Music Research Unit, University of Westminster  
**Matthew Siddaway**, Senior Associate, Brandsmiths  
**Alexi Cory-Smith**, Founder and CEO, Bella Figura Music
- 12.30 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Media Forum closing remarks**  
**Alex Sobel MP**, Co-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Music  
**Thomas Howard**, Westminster Media Forum