



EQUITY



The Baroness Bull CBE
Chair
Cultural Education Plan Expert Advisory Panel

VIA EMAIL

cc.

Secretary of State for Education
Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport
Shadow Secretary of State for Education
Shadow Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport

4th March 2024

Dear Lady Bull CBE,

We hope this finds you well.

We are writing to you as the general secretaries of the largest trade unions in the performing arts, entertainment and education. Between the National Education Union, Equity, Musicians' Union, Bectu and the Writers' Guild, many of our hundreds of thousands of members will be directly involved in delivering any future government Cultural Education Plan. Those that benefit from it may also go on to work in the sectors that we overwhelmingly represent.

We therefore are writing to express our disappointment that, despite terms of reference which require the panel to represent "*those responsible for delivering cultural education and wider related sectors such as arts*", no trade union representatives in the arts, entertainment or education were invited to participate, since the panel was established in July 2023.

We are further dismayed to note that, over the last year, none of the appropriate trade unions have been approached to provide evidence, insight or comment on the development of recommendations for government on a future Cultural Education Plan.

It seems unthinkable that a panel which claims 'expert' status in seeking to "*identify, amplify, extend and equalise cultural education opportunities for all children and young people, and in recognising the range of stakeholders*



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involved as well as differences in local delivery, cultural experiences and background” would not consider the voices of the hundreds of thousands of people working in the arts, entertainment, and education today. Those who would be directly involved in delivering such a welcome ambition.

We would therefore like to ask what plans the panel has to include the voices of trade union members working in the relevant industries in discussions, and whether trade unions will be invited to participate in advance of any recommendations being made to government?

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Kebede
National Education Union

Paul Fleming
Equity

Naomi Pohl
Musicians' Union

Ellie Peers
Writers' Guild

Philippa Childs
Bectu