

Jazz North Presents

Booking overseas artists to
perform in the UK post-Brexit



Gigging in the EU for artists post-Brexit

01.Overview



Jazz North Guidance, updated September 2022

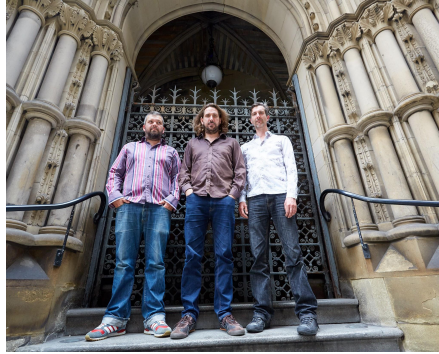


This guidance has been prepared by Jazz North from information from the UK government Home Office available at the time of writing, and is subject to change at any time. It is up to individual artists and promoters to ensure they are following the most up to date legislation as published on the [UK government website](#). Jazz North cannot be held responsible for the consequences of any inaccuracies in the information we provide.

◀ Marco Woolf

Overview

What to expect



Prepare yourself for more costs, administration and preparation than before, for the touring artist and the UK promoter

New rules are more straightforward for EU artists coming into the UK than for UK artists to tour Europe

One-off gigs in the UK are unlikely to be financially viable; look to create at least 3 or 4 dates to make it worth the work and costs involved

Despite the new and changing laws, the systems are still largely untested - because of Covid and increasing budgetary pressures around the world, relatively few artists and promoters have undertaken these processes. Legislation is likely to change once international touring returns.

Top Left: Taupe
Top Right: Mark Williams Trio
Bottom Left: Ponyland
Bottom Right: Tapp



Temporary Worker Visa and Permitted Paid Engagement



There are two likely routes to negotiating the legislation and coming to perform in the UK: the Temporary Work Creative Worker Visa Concession (for up to 3 months Visa-free) and the Permitted Paid Engagement Visa (in effect a visa exemption) for engagements of up to 1 month. Applications are **PER INDIVIDUAL, not per group**, although there is a group certificate available through the TWCWVC route, and must be made by a Registered Sponsor on the UK government portal. We don't discuss here any touring requirements for engagements longer than 3 months – these would require a full Visa.

◀ Archipelago, Northern Line Round 5

Terminology

Visa: this term is used throughout these applications but refers (confusingly) to each of the different 'permits to work in the UK' that are available – as well as to the common global interpretation of the word Visa (in relation to permission granted to enter a country).

Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS): not a certificate but a reference number given to the visiting artist(s) by the UK promoter who has booked the artist. The owner of the Sponsor Licence will be the promoter, or an agent providing such a service on their behalf. The term has nothing to do with the more common interpretation of sponsorship (businesses donating money to arts etc).

Terminology

Work permit: this term isn't officially used, so it is not used in this guidance. The term Work Visa (or concession) is used.

Carnet: a passport for equipment to prevent you from selling your instruments/gear abroad, and to prevent you from being charged import duties upon your return.

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02. Temporary Work - Creative Worker Visa Concession



NOTE: the concession part is important



This enables artists to work in the UK without a Visa, if:

1. They have received a Certificate of Sponsorship from the promoter
2. They're working in the UK for less than 3 months
3. They don't normally need a Visa to enter the UK

◀ Ubunye, Northern Line Round 5

What do I need to know?

The UK promoter must either own a Sponsor Licence, or access one via a third party provider. The licensee must be an employee of an organisation, and is legally responsible for the visiting artist for the duration of their stay in the UK. This licence costs the Sponsor £536 every 4 years + £21 for each Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS) issued. Each certificate is valid for 3 months only. It is possible to obtain one Group CoS for all band members.

When a gig is booked between a UK promoter and an overseas artist, both parties must understand that this CoS needs to be valid in order for non-UK nationals to enter the UK to work/perform. Not all promoters have - or indeed want - a Sponsor Licence.

What do I need to know?

The artist must supply all their personal and passport details of each individual musician/person in the travelling party so that the promoter (Sponsor) can apply for a certificate for each one of them. The Sponsor will then forward the certificate numbers to the artist (or promoter), to show upon entry to the UK.

There is no 'paper form' for artists to obtain or present at the UK border – artists need only the CoS number. Upon request, the Sponsor can forward to the artist a copy of the certificate application, for convenience.

What do I need to know?

The information required includes:

1. the name, nationality, DoB, address, passport details, job title and signatures of all involved (including the promoter)
2. the start and end dates of the employment contract
3. details of the work each artist been contracted to do
4. how much each musician will be paid

There cannot be more than 14 days in between each engagement.

One certificate can cover a number of 'employers' or engagements of the same artist (e.g. if the artist is on a UK tour).



Temporary Work - Creative Worker Visa Concession

Arriving in the UK



When arriving in the UK, artists must go to the immigration desk, not the e-passport gate, to request entry to the UK, otherwise they risk deportation if they are consequently found to be working.

Top Left: John Pope Quintet
Top Right: Nishla Smith Quintet
Bottom Left: Not Now Charlie
Bottom Right: Rafe's Dilemma

Temporary Work - Creative Worker Visa Concession

Arriving in the UK



They must show:

+Their CoS number and passport.

+Evidence that each artist has savings of £1270 (=c.1,475 Euros) (e.g. bank statements) to support themselves for 28 consecutive days (day 28 must be within 31 days of this application). It is permissible (but not always likely) for some promoters/Sponsors to guarantee to support the artist instead. The 'sponsor certifies maintenance' section must be box must be ticked on the certificate of sponsorship application to confirm this, if agreed by the Sponsor. It is far easier for artists to provide their own evidence of savings, to avoid placing excessive undue financial responsibility on the part of the Sponsor.

◀ Hannabiell and the Midnight Blue

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03.Paid Permitted Engagement (1-month exemption)



Paid Permitted Engagement (1 month exemption)

What is the PPE exemption route?



In June 2022 the previous rules for working in the UK via this route changed. Whereas previously, artists needed to evidence that they were an *expert in their profession* and invited by a UK registered Permit-Free Festival, it is now possible for EU artists to enter and undertake paid work in the UK for up to one month simply by the UK employer providing them with a letter of invitation.

◀ Nat Sharp at *mif*

Paid Permitted Engagement (1 month exemption)

What is the PPE route?

Unhelpfully, the UK government website does not provide a template for this letter; nor does it indicate what information the letter should contain. It is not yet clear whether the professional legal status of the organisation, or of the person signing the letter, is considered as part of the process. *For example, it is not yet clear whether voluntary promoting organisations could legitimately issue the letter of invitation or whether the issuing body must be a professional and/or a registered company.*

This invitation letter, which must be provided for each individual person entering the UK, including any accompanying tour managers/crew/agents, must be in English and show that the artist is a professional, over 18, and is formally invited by a UK-based organisation in the creative arts or entertainment industries to attend a pre-arranged event. Each visiting individual must be ready to demonstrate that they can support themselves financially during their visit and be able to show available funds for their return journey.



Paid Permitted Engagement (1 month exemption)

What CAN'T you do?



Top Left: SogoRock
Top Right: Nishla Smith Quintet
Bottom Left: Jemma Freese
Bottom Right: Katie Patterson, Rafe's Dilemma

This route provides relatively easy and free access for EU musicians coming to play in the UK, and is effectively, and confusingly, an *exemption* from the PPE Visa, rather than the use of the PPE Visa itself.

Artists using this route **CANNOT**:

- +do paid work in the UK unrelated to their main overseas job or area of expertise

- +study

- +live in the UK for extended periods

- +claim public funds or benefits in the UK

- +pass through the UK to another country ('in transit')

Paid Permitted Engagement (1 month exemption)

Artists **MUST** show that they will:



- +be formally invited by a UK-based organisation to attend a pre-arranged event or other permitted engagement relating directly to the artist's expertise, qualifications and main job in their home country

- +be 18 or over

- +be visiting the UK for no more than 1 month

- +leave the UK at the end of their visit

- +be able to support themselves during your trip (or have funding from someone else to support them)

- +be able to pay for their return or onward journey (or have funding from someone else to pay for the journey)

- +not live in the UK for extended periods through frequent or successive visits, or make the UK their main home

◀ Rafe's Dilemma



Paid Permitted Engagement (1 month exemption)

Invitation Letters

We recommend that invitation letters include the following:

+Confirmation of the promoting/employing organisation's professional status

+The engagement event, date and venue

+Confirmation of fees and expenses being paid to the artist that would provide them with living costs (accommodation, food and travel) whilst in the UK

+Confirmation that the artist is a professional artist in their home country and will exit the UK at the end of their engagement

The artist *may* also be required to show evidence of savings/funds that can support their living costs whilst in the UK.

The above applies if you use the *1-month exemption* to the PPE route. If you intend to use the full PPE Visa route, different rules apply – see below.



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The above applies if you use the *1-month exemption* to the PPE route. If you intend to use the full PPE Visa route, different rules apply – to follow.



Paid Permitted Engagement (1 month exemption)

Jazz North's CoS Offer



Alternatively, you can request small numbers of Certificates of Sponsorship from Jazz North to enable you to bring artists from any overseas country to perform in the UK. There is a small fee for this service, and only a limited number of certificates per year are available on a first come first served basis.

Contact Heather Spencer (heather@jazznorth.org) to find out more. You must give us a long period of notice and you may be refused CoS by Jazz North.

◀ Nishla Smith Quintet

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04.Paid Permitted Engagement Visa Route



Artists can apply for a PPE Visa if they:



◀ John Pope Quintet

+are invited by a UK-based organisation or client

+want to come to the UK to do specific paid work without having to be sponsored under the points-based visa system, including to take part in arts, entertainment or broadcasting

+meet the other [eligibility requirements](#)

Artists can apply for a PPE Visa if they:



+take part in one or more 'permit free festivals'. This is a list of UK festival organisations that have paid to apply for this status, so it is fairly limited, but includes (at the time of writing - the list changes yearly):

**Cheltenham Jazz Festival,
Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival,
Glasgow International Jazz Festival,
Huddersfield Contemporary Music
Festival, London Jazz Festival,
WOMAD**

◀ Birkett and Fisk

Paid Permitted Engagement Visa Route

Documents needed in order to apply

+a current passport

+a formal invitation from the UK-based organisation or client employing the artist

+proof that the paid engagement relates to the artist's expertise, qualifications and main job in their home country, for example a letter from their employer

+evidence that they are an established arts professional (publications, publicity material, proof of awards, media coverage, reviews, proof of recent performances)

+a certified translation of any documents that are not in English or Welsh

@SteveMead, September 2022



Thank You

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