



*Protecting and promoting the arts*

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11 July 2008

Visa requirements are to be extended to 11 new countries, just as the results of the NCA's snapshot survey on immigration and the arts have been collected and collated. We also champion the value of creative activity in enhancing communication skills in the wake of a £52 million package for children's speech and language services, and Westminster Hall debates the potential extension of re-sale rights to deceased artists.

- Visa requirements to be imposed on 11 new countries
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- Westminster Hall debates extension of artists' re-sale rights

#### **Visa requirements to be imposed on eleven new countries**

On Thursday, 10 July, Ministers announced their intention to introduce visa regimes (subject to a six month review period) for the following eleven countries: Bolivia; Botswana; Brazil; Lesotho; Malaysia; Mauritius; Namibia; South Africa; Swaziland; Trinidad and Tobago; and Venezuela. This means that all visitors from these countries will require a visa, before travelling to the UK. This will be a blow to those who were hoping to bring artists from these countries in for projects of less than three months duration. Following the announcement in May that non visa nationals coming to the UK for up to three months under the Creative and Sporting subcategory of Tier 5 of PBS would not need visas, this now means that artists visiting from these eleven countries will require visas whatever the length (or purpose) of their stay.

If these countries are able to present compelling evidence that they do not pose a threat to the UK in terms of illegal immigration, crime and security, there will be no need to introduce a visa regime. Final decisions will be made in early 2009.

The NCA would like to know how many members currently work with artists from these countries, and whether any current or proposed projects are likely to be affected. Please contact us with your comments or information at [campaigns@artscampaign.org.uk](mailto:campaigns@artscampaign.org.uk).

#### **NCA immigration and the arts survey: an overview of the findings**

The results are in from the NCA's online survey regarding the effect of new immigration rules on UK arts. The 10 question survey elicited responses from individual practitioners, large arts organisations, and public and educational bodies.

Of our respondents, 76 percent had hosted artists from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) in the past two years, and 55 percent considered it vital to their business. 81 percent said changes to immigration regulation would affect their work, with many

stating that cost, legal hurdles and increased administration might make employing international artists more difficult in future. However, only 2 percent of respondents stated they would decrease their roster of visiting international artists, with over half of respondents determined to continue working with the same number of non-EEA artists.

In general, it was felt that the regulations would make the UK arts scene more monocultural and less vibrant, although a small number felt that they would help to nurture domestic talent. The NCA will be submitting written evidence about the potential impact on the arts to the Parliamentary Home Affairs Select Committee on Monday 14 July.

A full overview of the survey results can be viewed [here](#)  
Information on the NCA's work on visas can be found [here](#)

### **£52 million for children's speech and language services: the NCA writes to Ed Balls highlighting the contribution the arts can make**

On Tuesday 8 July, the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department of Health (DoH) announced a £52 million package for improving young people's communication skills, including a £40 million Every Child a Talker programme to improve communication skills teaching amongst early years staff (up to age five).

This came after a review by John Bercow MP found that one in fourteen children begin school with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) and that services for children with SLCN were inconsistent, and varied in quality by region. The report called for earlier identification of SLCN and more emphasis on communication in the Primary Curriculum. £12 million has been set aside to implement its recommendations.

The NCA has consistently championed the arts as vital tools in the development of children's communication skills, and has written to DCSF Secretary Ed Balls, outlining the contribution they can make to the implementation of the new plans, details of which will be announced in September.

The NCA's letter to Ed Balls can be viewed in full [here](#)  
The DCSF Press-release can be viewed [here](#)  
The Bercow Review can be viewed [here](#)

### **Westminster Hall debates the extension of re-sale rights to deceased artists**

The issue of artists' re-sale rights was raised by Mark Fisher MP (Lab) in Westminster Hall on Tuesday 9 July. A European Commission (EC) directive was introduced in 2001 granting a proportion of revenue from the re-sale of artists' work to the artists themselves, and the debate was held in anticipation of a deadline for extending a UK-specific derogation which applies the rule to the work of living, but not deceased, artists. Mr Fisher suggested that the derogation, secured when the directive was introduced in late 2005, should be maintained for up to ten years, to protect the UK against non EU markets like the US, Switzerland and China, which would not acknowledge re-sale rights, and might prove more attractive to sellers. He suggested the UK market had only remained healthy because the right was not currently extended to deceased artists.

However Derek Wyatt (Lab) Chris Bryant (Lab) and Don Foster (LD) stated there was no reason to assume the full directive would disadvantage the UK arts market any more than it had in its partial form. Mr Wyatt stated that between 2004 and 2008 the UK arts

market grew in value from £4.2 billion to £8.5 billion, of which re-sale rights, even after extension to deceased artists, would claim 0.4 percent. Moreover, re-sale revenue was a moral right for artists and their families already extended to authors and musicians.

Ian Pearson, Minister of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, suggested extending the derogation for two years: a consultation has been undertaken to gauge industry views on the matter, which will end on 22 September.

A full NCA debate summary can be viewed [here](#)  
The consultation can be downloaded [here](#)

The NCA would also like to know how many members are affected by artists' re-sale rights, and what effect they think the extension of the directive will have. Please contact us at [campaigns@artscampaign.org.uk](mailto:campaigns@artscampaign.org.uk).

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The NCA is the UK's only independent campaigning organisation representing all the arts. It provides a voice for the arts world in all its diversity. It seeks to safeguard, promote and develop the arts and win public and political recognition for their importance as a key element in our national culture.

If you have received this email in error, have questions about its content or no longer wish to receive copies of the Friday Briefing then please contact the NCA as below.

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