



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

PUBLIC PETITION NO.

PE01831

Name of petitioner

Michael Grieve

Petition title

End the ban on background music

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to end the ban on background music in hospitality venues.

Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition

I have written to Fergus Ewing MSP & Fiona Hyslop MSP.

Petition background information

Scotland is the only country in the world to completely ban background music to combat COVID-19. Very few countries globally have considered this option, which is adding to an already seriously pressurised environment for the night-time economy.

Experts in acoustics have questioned the scientific rationale behind the ban and cited evidence that appropriate and well-managed background music does not interfere with the ability of individuals to communicate in any hospitality setting. This refutes Scottish Government concerns that background music would lead to breaching of physical distancing requirements or the potential for individuals to shout to be heard.

Businesses in the night-time economy are calling for an end to the background music ban and for the introduction of robust venue specific measures to ensure operators can set appropriate levels of background music, giving regulators the confidence that it will not interfere with vital public health goals.

The Scottish Government's choice to prohibit background music in such difficult times risks further diminishing the country's state of wellbeing and acts as a total block on important expressions of culture and creativity.

Music is vital to mental health and well-being and presents a key platform for creativity, emotion, and education. It is also central to creating a welcoming environment for customers in already struggling venues right across Scotland.

Unique web address

<https://www.parliament.scot/GettingInvolved/Petitions/DontStopTheMusic>

Related information for petition

Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament's website to collect signatures online?

YES

How many signatures have you collected so far?

20

Closing date for collecting signatures online

19 / 11 / 2020

Comments to stimulate online discussion

Do you agree the ban on background music should be lifted?
Should operators be able to set appropriate levels of background music?