

Travelling or returning to Scotland for work as a performing arts professional during COVID-19: Scottish Government Self-isolation Exemptions Guidance.

This Guidance should be read in conjunction with Government guidance on how to self-isolate when travelling to Scotland here - [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): international travel and quarantine - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/Topics/healthandcare/coronavirus/covid-19/international-travel-and-quarantine)

Who can apply:

An application for self-isolation exemption can be submitted by a well-established and recognised Scottish producing venue or organisation, such as a theatre or theatre company, a concert hall, grassroots music venue or orchestra, a recording studio, dance studio or dance company, **on behalf of** a domestic or international artist or cultural professional who is coming into Scotland to work on a specific professional performing arts activity with that producer.

Who a producing venue or organisation can apply on behalf of:

- Individual domestic artists and cultural professionals (e.g. non-performers essential to an activity such as crew, production or technical team members, tour managers, directors, executive producers, artist managers or record label executives) returning to Scotland from professional activity abroad (i.e. not holidays), to work on a specific professional performing arts activity within the preceding 10-day period.
- Individual international artists and cultural professionals (e.g. non-performers essential to the making of an activity such as crew, production or technical team members, tour managers, directors, executive producers, artist managers or record label executives) coming to work in Scotland on a specific professional performing arts activity within the preceding 10 day period.

In all cases, the exemption only applies when the individual has a professional paid commitment with the producing venue or organisation - other than for this purpose, they must self-isolate.

All domestic and international professionals **must** also derive a living from performing arts or other performance-related cultural activities.

Any family members or other dependents travelling with artists and cultural professionals will need to self-isolate for 10 days after they arrive in Scotland, or for the full period of their trip if it is less than 10 days.

Disciplines covered by this exemption include:

- **Combined Arts** - including multi-artform/inter-disciplinary activities
- **Dance**
- **Music** - including recording and music video production
- **Theatre**
- **Live Literature**
- **Live art (performance)**

Types of activity can include:

- a dramatic production, such as a performance of a play, opera, musical or other dramatic piece,
- a reading or recitation,
- a performance of live music,
- a recording of a performance of live music which is —
 - broadcast, at the time of the performance or later, to the general public, **or**
 - released, at the time of the performance or later, to the paying public (by digital or other means),
- a music video production,
- a performance of dance, **or**
- an event that combines more than one of the above activities

Eligibility criteria that artists and cultural professionals must meet:

- Must be attending a professional performing arts event in Scotland, for which they are being paid, that would be delayed or affected by having to self-isolate; **or** the individual's work schedule would be delayed or affected by having to self-isolate;
- Must provide details of engagements in the next three months;
- Must provide evidence of at least **one** of the following:
 - media recognition for their work
 - having won recognised awards
 - evidence of working professionally in a least two countries other than the UK;
- Must provide a URL of their public profile – e.g. Personal website/Social Media profiles/Spotify/Wikipedia etc.

All applicants (i.e. the producing venue or organisation) must submit to Arts Council England, who are managing this process in consultation with Creative Scotland, an application letter with the supporting evidence at the time of application:

- The letter must be from a well-established and recognised Scottish producing venue or organisation, such as a theatre or theatre company, a

concert hall, grassroots music venue or orchestra, a recording studio, dance studio or dance company

- The letter must show the organisation's logo and registered address and be dated and signed by the author, who must be a senior member of the organisation (e.g. Chief Executive, Artistic Director, Principal or Chair);
- The letter must include full contact details for the author, including personal email address and direct telephone number.
- The letter must include details of the author's credentials (for example, a CV/resume/bio) and how they know the individual (personal relationship or reputation).
- The letter must show full details of the booking – activity dates and location
- The letter must detail how integral the individual is to the production – i.e., without the individual, the production could not take place, or the production would be made impossible by a 10-day delay.
- Confirmation that the activity is being done in line with COVID-secure guidance, including social distancing measures, and a full risk assessment has been completed.
- Confirmation that the individual has been made aware that they will be required to remain within a 'bubble' for 10 days (unless leaving the country before the end of the self-isolation period). The 'bubble' only includes their place of accommodation and COVID-secure work locations, with necessary travel between them.
- Confirmation that both the individual and the event organisers are aware of the guidelines on self-isolation, as part of any contact tracing actions.
[Guidance on self-isolation is available here - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Test and Protect - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/Topics/healthandcare/coronavirus/covid-19/testingandprotect)

This is particularly important should COVID-19 Test and Protect protocols need to be engaged. Confirmation of such accreditation may be requested at various points of the relevant person's journey.

Any such individuals will be required to remain within a 'bubble' for 10 days (unless leaving the country before the end of the self-isolation period). The 'bubble' only includes their place of accommodation and COVID-secure performance and rehearsal locations, with necessary travel between them.

As per the Scottish Government regulations the individual must be certified as a performing arts professional by Arts Council England. This certification will be confirmed via a letter from Arts Council England following successful completion of the application process outlined above.

The producing venue or organisation must also provide the individual with a letter they must carry, if approved. This letter must show:

- name
- date of birth
- passport number
- address where staying during Quarantine Exempt period
- activity dates and location

- contact phone number for the relevant organisation
- confirmation that the activity that will be carried out is being done in line with COVID-secure guidance and a full risk assessment has been completed
- confirmation that the individual has been made aware that they will be required to remain for up to 10 days within a 'bubble' that includes only their place of accommodation and COVID-secure work locations, with necessary travel between them
- confirmation that the individual is aware of the legal requirement to isolate if required to as part of any contact tracing actions

The individual must **also** carry letter of certification from Arts Council England to confirm their eligibility for the self-isolation exemption, which will be provided by Arts Council England in advance of the individual entering the UK. This letter will confirm that Arts Council England have, using their recognised expertise and, where appropriate, in consultation with Creative Scotland, assessed the request from the producing venue or organisation alongside the professional's supporting evidence and agreed that the exemption is appropriate.

Summary of what the individual must obtain before entering the UK:

- **A letter from producing venue or organisation**
- **A letter of certification from Arts Council England**

Application process:

- The applicant (the activity producer) applies via email to Arts Council England at exemptions@artscouncil.org.uk with their application letter as set out above, along with the professional's supporting evidence.
- Arts Council England's Global Talent team will assess the application within **ten working days maximum**. Please note that the period 23 December 2020 to 4 January 2021 inclusive will not be considered working days for this purpose.
- The recommendation by the Global Talent team will be signed off by the relevant director or senior manager and a letter confirming the decision will be returned to the applicant via email as a PDF attachment on Arts Council England headed paper. The individual must carry this accreditation letter with them when not isolating.
- If an application is unsuccessful and an applicant feels that a mistake has been made, they can submit an appeal via email to Arts Council England on behalf of the professional. This appeal can only be used if it is felt that Arts Council England have not followed the published process. It cannot be used to submit additional information or evidence. Arts Council England will return their decision to the applicant via email within ten working days.

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Travel Corridors

Eligible professional performers and cultural workers do not have to self-isolate when they arrive in Scotland if they are travelling to Scotland from one of the travel corridor countries. Check the relevant Scottish Government guidance, as qualifying countries may differ and the list can change at short notice –

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): international travel and quarantine - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/Coronavirus-(COVID-19):-international-travel-and-quarantine)

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Performers and cultural professionals exemption

NOTE: This exemption only applies to Scotland. See separate advice for quarantine measures in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Eligible professional performers and cultural workers (e.g. non performers essential to an activity such as crew, production or technical team members, tour managers, directors, executive producers, artist managers or record label executives) are able to engage in specific work activity whilst continuing to isolate in a 'bubble' for 10 days when not engaging in that work activity, unless leaving the country before the end of the self-isolation period. Anyone who qualifies, or is employing someone who does, should follow this guidance – [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): international travel and quarantine - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/Coronavirus-(COVID-19):-international-travel-and-quarantine)

Exempt individuals must still complete a Public Health Passenger Locator Form prior to, or as soon as reasonably practicable upon, arriving in Scotland - [Fill in your passenger locator form - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/forms/public-health-passenger-locator-form).

NOTE: All usual immigration requirements for entering and working in the UK still apply.

Data Protection – Arts Council England

Arts Council England is committed to using any personal information (or personal data) they collect on a lawful, fair and transparent basis, respecting your legal rights as an individual in accordance with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (2016/679), the UK Data Protection Act 2018 and other applicable laws that regulate the use and privacy of personal data (Data Protection Law).

As part of meeting this requirement, they have published their General Privacy Notice for you to refer to here. This tells you more about the personal data the Arts Council collects; the different purposes they use it for and on what legal basis; who they may share that personal data with; how long they keep it; and your legal rights, including your right to contact them and receive information regarding the personal data about you that they may hold from time to time.

For further information about the Arts Council England's obligations and your rights under Data Protection Law, as well as how to report a concern if you believe that your personal data is being collected or used illegally, please see the Information Commissioner's Office website at www.ico.org.uk

Data Protection – Creative Scotland

Arts Council England will provide Creative Scotland with your personal information when notifying Creative Scotland of successful applications from applicants based in Scotland.

For information on how Creative Scotland processes your personal information, please read our Privacy Notice. This is available online at: creativescotland.com/privacy-notice