



**Authors'
Licensing and
Collecting
Society**

Darren Henley OBE
Chief Executive
Arts Council England
Bloomsbury Street
London WC1B 3HF

14 July 2020

Dear Mr Henley

Re. Support for Writers and Authors during the Corona Crisis and Beyond

I am just writing to thank you and everybody at Arts Council England for your continued support for the creative community and to make a plea, as you balance all the demands on your resources, for the needs of writers and authors also receive further attention in these exceptionally challenging of times.

By way of introduction, ALCS a not-for-profit body, with over 100,000 members, which distributes funds collected for licensed secondary uses of authors' works, with £35 million paid out in the last year and over £500 million in all since our foundation in 1977. We work closely with the UK's successful Collective Management Organisations on cross-cutting issues and with other bodies, including the Society of Authors, the Writers' Guild of Great Britain, the Royal Society of Literature and Association of Authors' Agents, to support the UK's world-leading writing community.

During the current health crisis, despite the challenges, in March we sent out nearly £24 million to around 90,000 authors, a great many of whom are freelance, and contributed significantly to the Authors' Emergency Fund. ACE's support for that initiative, and other relief funds across the creative sector, was naturally greatly appreciated.

We appreciate, too, the constraints under which ACE operates and welcome your recognition of the plight of freelancers and the genuinely self-employed, including writers and authors, many of whom have 'portfolio careers', often struggle to get by and have seen their various sources of income simply disappear in present times.

It has been really positive, therefore, to see that ACE's National Lottery Projects Grants programme is set to be re-prioritised to help individual creative freelancers, as well as smaller organisations, when it re-opens shortly. As you work out the details of the £1.57 billion Cultural Relief Package and the rest of ACE's own Emergency Fund awards, we would also urge further consideration of the needs of writing and literature groups, which you already support.

This crisis, of course, comes at a time when the creative industries face other challenges ahead, not least 'Brexit', of which the Creative Europe programme has already been a victim. ALCS is already a member of the Libraries Task Force and we wonder whether we might possibly set up a meeting, in due course, with ACE and other writers' and authors' representatives to discuss opportunities for enhancing support for this vital part of our creative sector.

With best wishes and yours sincerely

Barbara Ann Hayes

Deputy Chief Executive, Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society