

Luke Pollard MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP
Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
Department for Digital, Culture Media & Sport
100 Parliament Street
London
SW1A 2BQ

23 June 2020

Dear Secretary of State,

THEATRE ROYAL PLYMOUTH

The Theatre Royal Plymouth has today announced that 100 jobs are at risk due to the severe financial difficulty the theatre is in because of the virus. The Theatre Royal is one of the best regional theatres in the country. It generates 91% of its revenue from trading and delivers some of the finest theatre in the country. It is not just locally important, its work is nationally significant. It must not fail. It cannot go bust. It needs your help.

I know your Department has received considerable numbers of requests for urgent assistance for theatres, the performing arts and the creative sector. These requests are urgent. Everyday creative businesses go bust, through no fault of their own. The Theatre Royal is a good business. It is an exemplar of how a regional theatre can operate at the highest levels of the trade and be true to its local community.

The future of the Theatre Royal rests in your hands and I urge you to act swiftly to announce a funded support package for theatre, the performing arts and the creative sector before the situation is irrecoverable.

Plymouth and the far south west needs the Theatre Royal. It is a jewel in our region's crown. It is too significant to be allowed to fail. I urge you to announce support swiftly before it is too late.

Theatre has so much good to offer society. It challenges perception, entertains, provokes and supports a creative sector that drives a large part of the UK economy. I know the Theatre Royal's staff would make themselves available to meet you or your officials to discuss the urgency of their financial situation. I look forward to your swift response.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Luke'.

Luke Pollard
Member of Parliament for Plymouth Sutton and Devonport