No support, no structure, no evidence

Statement from the National Outdoor Events Association

14th June 2021

The National Outdoor Events Association has heavily criticised the government for delaying its 21st June lockdown easing date, and the continued enforced closure of major parts of the UKs outdoor events industry.

“To date, the government has provided no evidence of the detrimental effects large scale events have had on the spread of Covid, including its own test events which took place last month,” comments Tom Clements, President, National Outdoor Events Association. “However, despite this lack of evidence, the events industry will now have to wait a further four weeks, within its critical summer season, for some, effectively writing off the remainder of 2021’s events programme.”

Furthermore, the government is still to present an ‘events specific’ support package for those businesses who remain the life blood of this £70 billion industry, many of which could fold as a result of the enforced closure of events. Indeed, while other industry sectors have been given government pay-outs, events-based businesses are being forced to borrow more money just to stay afloat and their situation is now far worse than the environment they were in in 2020.

Tom continues, “We’re heavily critical of this decision from the government, who have now put another nail in the coffin of the UK events industry. Many of these businesses are now looking at two and a half years without income, with eye watering levels of government backed debt; that is too much for any company. They could well close, leaving a dangerous gap in the long-term skill base, quality and integrity of our industry.”

“This is a highly responsible industry, well-regulated and committed to audience safety first on every occasion. We should be in control of whether or not events happen, not a politized government,” concludes Tom. “In effect, we’ve been left with no structure of support, no specific financial help for businesses, and are an industry being kicked into the cold despite a complete lack of evidence.”

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