



THE SHOWMEN'S GUILD OF GREAT BRITAIN
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The Showmen's Guild of Great Britain is looking forward to working with the new Labour Government in Westminster; in addition to all of the new constituency MPs locally across Britain.

Following the General election result with the landslide victory by the Labour party that had been widely predicted, the Showmen's Guild is keen to engage with the new government, which is currently being formed, to present our case for support for the Fairground and Show industry and community.

There are several areas where we are looking to form engagement to effect change where necessary.

- We welcome the planned support for Freelancers, who make up an important proportion of our members, with many as SMEs
- The national government's relationship with and support for local government affects us directly, as all of our members directly or indirectly deal with local councils who are forced to raise land-rent and other charges for our members' and the Showmen's Guild Sections' fairs; as they are so short of funds themselves. This is an economic drain on our and our members' resources.
- We are continuing our dialogue with the LGA too on this so that between us all we can develop an equitable and affordable business settlement nationwide, so our members and Sections' fairs can flourish economically.
- Additionally we are keen to participate in the plans that the new government has pledged in their manifesto to reform the Planning process; this too is likely to be with local government participation. We are keen to have our voice heard on the need to assist the planning process for Showmen / Showpeople, which is currently onerous; so that our members can establish the business and community bases that they need to work from in arranging the fairs business and from which they can establish civic and community relationships as valued citizens.
- We are looking to progress the economic case for a reduction in VAT rates for our industry, with possible scaled rates and to make it financially viable for new entrants to VAT registration; showing that there is a greater yield for the Treasury with the changes; whilst assisting our members' businesses to be economically viable. We are working on the financial assessment of the industry that will underpin our economic argument; coupled with a reminder of the artistic success of the industry that couples its £1 billion turnover, that is matched by that of the industry's supply chain.

- We are working with members in key areas of the country with constituency MPs from all parties to join our All Party Group (APPG) in Westminster, to progress these aims and more.
- This will include progression of our bid with the Department of Media Culture & Sport (DCMS) for UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of the landscape of fairs across Britain; along with the art & business craft of Showmanship that is predominantly kept alive by our members through their time-honoured work.
- In parallel, our Scottish Section is continuing to work with members to the Showmen's Guild's Cross Party Group in Holyrood on these issues; in addition to the unique issues that they face in Scotland, especially the onerous effects of the licensing system that still exists there.
- We are working too with our South Wales and Northern Ireland Section to continue and progress many of these business and community ambitions; respectively in the Senedd and in the Northern Ireland Assembly.
- Both the SW & NI Section and Scottish Section committees and our members individually in each country, will also welcome and develop a dialogue locally with the renewed range of Constituency MPs of the Westminster Parliament.
- We are also working with colleagues on sister trade associations in the wider Event Industry in many of these areas where we hold common ambitions

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