

As Chairman of Komedia Bath I am making a short statement on behalf of the community owned venue. The Beau Nash Limited trading as Komedia Bath occupies one of Bath and the South West's key historic entertainment venues. We redrew the model for mid scale venues when we became 100% community owned in 2019 and have navigated all the challenges since with greater resilience. The cultural impact and community benefit offered to the city and the region has been huge and recognised with the venue winning the Bath Life, Creative Bath and Bath Bid awards in 2024. Over the years Komedia Bath has developed a strong partnership with BANES, as a long term tenant and one of the key cultural operators in the city. There are a number of issues that BANES has oversight of that will directly impact the quality of shows on offer in the city and on the long term sustainability of the venue.

Access to Komedia by smaller scale touring acts, typically arriving in small vans, functions well. Larger scale acts, who tour the county in coaches, have ongoing major issues visiting Komedia which are untenable in the long term. We are requesting that access to Westgate Street is offered on the same basis to larger scale artists as it is currently to smaller scale acts. If this is not possible Komedia Bath will no longer be able to host big name music acts.

The other factor under BANES control is the discretionary 80% charity discount on business rates to not-for-profit organisations. Many councils across the country offer full 80% discount to not-for-profit organisations on business rates. With the current discount business rates being reduced in March 25, we ask that BANES consider taking a similar approach to other councils. That being to offer the Komedia Bath the full 80% business rates discount. This ongoing relief will go a long way to safeguard the long term future of Komedia Bath, which currently operates successfully and sustainably for the benefit of the community in a key BANES asset.

**Richard Daws**

**Chairman**

**The Beau Nash Limited t/a Komedia Bath**

[www.komediabath.co.uk](http://www.komediabath.co.uk)

**Telephone: 01225 489070**

**Registered address:**

**22-23 Westgate Street**

**Bath**

**BA1 1EP**