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Dear Professor Waelde

Thank you for your recent correspondence and attached briefing to the Minister of State for Disabled People outlining some of the findings from your Invisible Difference: Dance, Disability and Law project in the context of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Government Ministers receive a large volume of correspondence and they are unable to reply personally on every occasion. We have been asked to respond.

The Government's ambition is to enable all disabled people – of all backgrounds and ages – to fulfil their potential and have opportunities to play a full role in society including involvement in cultural activities like dance. To realise this ambition, and help make a reality of the aspirations set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People (UN Convention), we want to tackle barriers to realising aspirations and individual control, as well as change attitudes and behaviour towards disabled people. The Government is already working very hard to raise awareness of disability issues and improve attitudes towards disabled people.

On 4 September, the Government published updates on its disability strategy- Fulfilling Potential – Making it Happen which emphasises the need for innovative cross sector partnerships with disabled people and their organisations and promoting new ways of working to deliver meaningful outcomes. More information about the strategy can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-for-disability-issues>

As you will be aware the Arts Council England develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences to enrich people's lives by supporting a range of cultural activities including those choreographed and/or performed by disabled people.

One of the Arts Council's five goals is diversity and skills, which means ensuring that leadership and workforce of the arts and cultural sector reflects the diversity of the country, including fair routes to entry and progression. Further information about the Arts Council and its funding can be found at <http://www.artscouncil.org.uk>.

In respect of copyright, again as you will be aware any qualifying work can be protected by copyright whether commercialised or not and that gives the owner the right to control the way in which the work is used. We agree that it is important for people to be aware of what copyright protects, how they can defend their work from infringement and how to value their intellectual property. The Intellectual Property Office website <http://www.ipo.gov.uk/> provides more information about this and if needed can provide a number of training courses and seminars as do other organisations.

Yours sincerely

Ministerial Correspondence Team