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## After 4-Year Campaign Agent of Change is Here

It finally happened. After four solid years of campaigning by **Music Venue Trust**, alongside our friends, patrons and partners, Agent of Change entered into UK planning advice in the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) on 24 July. The relevant guidance features at paragraph 182, which reads:

182. Planning policies and decisions should ensure that new development can be integrated effectively with existing businesses and community facilities (such as places of worship, pubs, music venues and sports clubs). Existing businesses and facilities should not have unreasonable restrictions placed on them as a result of development permitted after they were established. Where the operation of an existing business or community facility could have a significant adverse effect on new development (including changes of use) in its vicinity, the applicant (or 'agent of change') should be required to provide suitable mitigation before the development has been completed.



### Emergency Response

#### Get in touch – NOW!

Is your Grassroots Music Venue in trouble? [Contact our Emergency Response Team NOW.](#)

### Join the MVT Mailing List

Band, Media or Company Name

First Name

Last Name

Email Address

## What this means: England

If you are a music venue in England threatened by development, the responsibility to protect you from negative outcomes, whether they are to your licence, trading hours, normal operation, future noise complaints now falls to the developer.

During the planning process, **Music Venue Trust** can support your venue to ensure that your local council insists that the developer meets his obligations as the **Agent of Change**. This protection is in place now for any planning application that has not already been granted. If your venue has a development happening anywhere near you, contact us through the [Emergency Response service](#) and we can help you to access all the protection you need. This latest addition to the **NPPF** sits alongside previous victories for **MVT** in asking government to change legislation to balance out the planning process – a reminder that Permitted Development Right (by which an office can be converted to a residence without the planning application process) does NOT apply where a music venue is impacted. The full planning process always applies where a **Grassroots Music Venue's** future is threatened, and it is always the developer that has the responsibility to manage the impact on your venue.

**It is the intention of the NPPF that no Grassroots Music Venue in England will be closed by development ever again.**



What This Means:  
Wales  
Welsh Government published their latest draft of their [Noise and Soundscape action plan 2018-2023](#) on 26 July.

On behalf of **Music Venue Trust**, Jon Fox submitted extensive advice to the first draft, and this latest version has picked up on most of Jon's submissions. Section 4.3 commits Wales to adopting **Agent of Change** in a manner that explicitly protects



What This Means:  
Scotland  
The Chief Planner for Scotland [wrote to all local authorities](#) on 16 February to ask them to adopt Agent of Change.

The [Planning Scotland Bill](#) completed Stage 1 on 29 May 2018. **Music Venue Trust** is working with Scottish Government to ensure **Agent of Change** becomes part of the new Planning Bill. As a minimum, we would expect an equality of protection with that enjoyed by Welsh and



What This Means:  
Northern Ireland  
We bet you've never seen that flag before, right? It's the flag of the **Northern Ireland Assembly**.

The best we can offer is that as soon as the Assembly is actually back functioning, **Music Venue Trust** will immediately engage with NI Government to highlight that NI is the only UK territory that has no process to introduce **Agent of Change**,

## Latest News



### Liverpool United By Music



### MVT Gig Guide – Powered by Hearby



### Own Our Venues: Music Venue Trust Official Statement

## Spring Budget

### Music Venue Trust Spring Budget Response Statement



### Music Venue Trust Closes In On £2.5M Target For 'Own Our Venues' Initiative

## Pipeline Investment Fund

### Music Venue Trust Announces Third Round of Recipients for their Pipeline Investment Fund

Grassroots Music Venues.

English venues – current conversations indicate Scotland may be prepared to do much more.

disadvantaging NI GMVs from the protections enjoyed elsewhere.

August 2nd, 2018

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## One Comment

Music Venue Trust – Venues Day 2018 Spotlight – TV Aerials Sheffield October 3, 2018 at 4:53 pm

[...] four years of campaigning, we finally got Agent of Change, a key protection of music venues, into the English planning framework. This means if you build [...]

Comments are closed.

