

NTIA | NIGHT TIME INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

Dear Prime Minister, Dear Chancellor,

I am writing on behalf of **thousands of businesses across the UK's night-time economy**, whose livelihoods, employees and communities are now facing mounting uncertainty.

The UK stands at a critical moment.

As global instability drives a sharp rise in fuel prices, we are already seeing the early signs of economic shock, rising transport costs, supply chain disruption, and increasing pressure on businesses and consumers alike. For the UK's night-time economy, which relies heavily on mobility, logistics and discretionary spending, this presents an immediate and serious threat.

We welcome engagement between government and industry. However, **closed-door conversations with key energy suppliers are ineffective in the face of global market pressures.**

The reality is simple: these are global markets, and publicly listed companies are accountable to shareholders. In times of volatility, businesses are driven to protect margins, not reduce them. Expecting firms to absorb rising costs without government intervention is unrealistic, and risks passing the full burden onto consumers and small businesses.

Other nations are not waiting. Australia has already taken bold, decisive action, halving fuel duty and introducing free public transport to shield its economy from precisely these pressures. These are not symbolic gestures; they are practical interventions designed to stabilise costs and maintain economic activity.

The UK must now show the same level of leadership. The night-time economy contributes billions to the UK economy, supports hundreds of thousands of jobs, and plays a vital role in our cultural identity and global appeal. Yet it remains one of the most exposed sectors to rising fuel costs. Every increase impacts staff commuting, customer footfall, artist touring, supply chains, and venue operations.

Without immediate intervention, we risk further closures, job losses, and long-term damage to an industry that has already endured sustained hardship.

We therefore call on the government to urgently consider:

- A temporary **halving of fuel duty or a reduction in VAT** to ease immediate cost pressures
- The introduction of **free or subsidised public transport**, particularly during evening and late-night hours

These measures would provide immediate relief, protect livelihoods, and sustain economic momentum during a period of global uncertainty.

This is not a moment for observation or negotiation, it is a moment for action.

If we are serious about protecting growth, supporting businesses, and safeguarding jobs, then we must move beyond dialogue and deliver decisive intervention.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Kill
CEO, Night Time Industries Association