

Great shame UK has been shunned from European Capital of Culture 2023 – Watson

Tom Watson MP, Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, commenting on the EU commission's decision to revoke Britain's hosting of European Capital of Culture 2023, said:

"The news that the UK has been shunned from this European cultural competition is a great shame for the whole country and particularly for the cities that had put in bids to be the European Capital of Culture in 2023.

"Some cities have already spent up to £500,000 on their bid submissions.

"Being the Capital of Culture had a transformative effect in Glasgow and Liverpool, fuelling regeneration, tourism and community pride. That opportunity has now been taken away from the bidding cities.

"The Government must now explain how they intend to ensure that Brexit does not leave us culturally isolated from Europe and how the economic and cultural benefits that accompany the European capital of culture will be maintained."