



HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

Kevin Stewart MSP
Aberdeen Central
Third Floor
27 St John Street
Aberdeen
AB25 1BT

12 August 2020

Dear Kevin,

Thank you for your email of 23 April to the Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP enclosing correspondence from your constituent, Russell Borthwick, Chief Executive of Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce, about business. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area and, on behalf of the Treasury, I would like to apologise for the delay in responding to you.

The past few months have been a difficult and disorienting time for individuals and businesses across the country and the Government is very grateful for people's patience as it works to protect the NHS and save lives. As I am sure you can imagine, the Treasury has received an unprecedented amount of correspondence in the past few months. We recognise how important correspondence is, and we have taken measures to remedy the situation as quickly as possible, including bringing in additional external staff to our central correspondence team, which has tripled in size.

We have considered all of the requests and suggestions from Members of Parliament and their constituents. We have taken these into account when deciding what the appropriate support to provide to the country as a whole would be.

Given the time that has passed, the specific concern for your constituent may already have been addressed through one of the announced schemes. We are

aware that we have not been able to help every single person in exactly the way that they would have liked, even with the enormous support in place. Our wide-ranging support package is still one of the most comprehensive in the world; with generous income support schemes, billions paid in loans and grants, tax deferrals and more than £6.5 billion injected into the welfare safety net. All of the support packages available are outlined on at: www.gov.uk/coronavirus.

The Treasury is now focused on developing new measures to grow the economy, to back business, to boost skills, and help people thrive in the new post COVID-19 world.

Please pass on my thanks to Russell Borthwick for taking the trouble to make us aware of these concerns.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kemi Badenoch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

KEMI BADENOCH MP