



**Aberdeen &  
Grampian  
Chamber of  
Commerce**

Siobhan Brown MSP  
Convener  
Covid-19 Recovery Committee  
Scottish Parliament  
Holyrood  
EH00 1SP

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Dear Ms Brown,

This letter is written on behalf of Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce and the 1,000+ member companies we represent in the North-east of Scotland.

Our region has been harder hit than others as a result of the impact of public health measures implemented in response to the pandemic. Accordingly, we have previously made clear our deep concerns with the lack of meaningful engagement with the business community and lack of regard given to the economic harms of the restrictions imposed.

Now we note, with dismay, that the Coronavirus (Recovery and Reform) (Scotland) Bill Stage 1 Debate in parliament last week made little or no reference at all to business and the economy.

In the submission we provided to the Covid-19 Recovery Committee, we made a strong case that the powers this legislation would grant ministers in its current form would not proportionately balance economic and public health considerations and will put Scottish businesses at further competitive disadvantage against their peers elsewhere. I have re-attached our submission for your reference.

As I'm sure you will agree, learning to live with and recovering from the pandemic cannot succeed without business as a key driver and partner. We hope that at Stage 2 members of your committee will focus on how Scottish companies are supported to lead our economic recovery without the spectre of further emergency measures being reintroduced at any time ministers deem necessary. And how this legislation is amended and improved to address this vital omission.

Yours sincerely,

**Russell Borthwick**  
Chief Executive



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