

# Stirling Matters - June 2020 (Business Edition)

News from Stirling's Parliamentary Team

'We're living through unprecedented times. Extraordinary measures have been taken to halt the spread of COVID-19, and from the falling case numbers we can see real progress. Thoughts now turn to the economic recovery, and how we support Scottish businesses to regain sustainable growth. This newsletter is a flavour of just some of the issues we're raising on behalf of local businesses in Stirling. We remain by your side, ready to build back better and support the return of entrepreneurial spirit across the communities of Stirling.' - Alyn Smith MP & Bruce Crawford MSP

## Action needed on business insurance

'There has been a failure of regulation. There is a need for state intervention on this.'

Alyn has urged the UK Government to take action over business insurance, as many corona-virus-related claims are denied payouts despite firms possessing pandemic disruption policies.

Questioning the Leader of the House of Commons Jacob Rees-Mogg, Alyn argued urgent steps are required to ensure businesses are supported.

Watch the clip:

<https://twitter.com/AlynSmith/status/1255563937757741056?s=20>

## Small businesses must be supported

In his regular column in The National, Alyn discusses the current difficulties with the UK government furlough scheme, and the 'dividend payments' gap the directors of small businesses are falling into.

Such businesses remain vital to the local and national economy, and are crying out for further support.

Alyn and Bruce have expressed their strong support for the #ForgottenLtd campaign, and urge the Treasury to reconsider its stance.

Read more here:

<https://www.thenational.scot/news/18491651.alyn-smith-small-companies-backbone-economy/?ref=twtr>

## Bruce seeks answers for B&Bs

Bruce has asked Fiona Hislop, Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work and Culture for further clarity and information on the assistance available for businesses who have yet to receive government support.

For some businesses such as B&Bs, this has been complicated by unique circumstances.

From June 15th, B&Bs previously excluded from support can apply to a £3 million funding pot, administered by local authorities.

Watch the clip:

<https://www.facebook.com/435524353305769/posts/1393900927468102/>

## MP backs calls for haulage industry support

'From food and medicines, to key industrial supplies; this is an important part of the chain of supply that we all rely on.'

Alyn is calling for the UK Treasury to consider an urgent support package for this vital industry, including cash grants, time limited tax exemptions and tax claim-backs.

Read more here:

<https://alynsmith.scot/2020/04/21/mp-supports-call-for-haulage-support/>

## Stirling businesses need more support to get through crisis

In a Stirling Observer column, Bruce has outlined his thoughts on current levels of support for local businesses, and where more can be done to promote economic recovery.

The Scottish Parliament remains constrained in its borrowing powers - this key obstacle must be overcome to unlock growth.

Read more here:

<http://www.brucecrawford.scot/blog-stirling-businesses-need-more-support-to-get-through-this-crisis/>

## Call for UK Gov funding pledge to be honoured

Bruce has called on the UK Treasury to follow through with coronavirus funding commitments, as it emerges £70 million has been retracted.

This includes a reduction in charity support consequential from £35 million to £25 million, and a missing £60 million in business grant funding.

Find out more here:

<http://www.brucecrawford.scot/call-for-tory-msps-to-ensure-70-million-funding-pledges-are-honoured/>

## Further government help for tourism businesses needed

Bruce has raised the need for additional government support for the Scottish tourism industry, as businesses struggle with the economic fallout from COVID-19.

Speaking to Fergus Ewing, the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism, Bruce highlighted the impact of the pandemic across the Stirling constituency.

Read more here:

<http://www.brucecrawford.scot/more-support-for-tourism-businesses-needed/>

## Major site development confirmed amid health crisis

'Stirling remains open for investment and business' is the clear message driven by local leaders, as the Ambassador Group has confirmed proposals for a 110 acre development of the Craigforth site.

Proposals include offices, retail, residential and other infrastructure developments.

Read more here:

<https://alynsmith.scot/2020/05/07/major-business-site-development-confirmed-amid-crisis/>

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**[www.brucecrawford.scot](http://www.brucecrawford.scot)**

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For further help & support, visit:

NHS Inform: COVID-19

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19>

Scot Gov:Business Support

<https://findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/>

Stirling Council: Guidance

<https://www.stirling.gov.uk/planning-building-the-environment/emergencies-emergency-planning/coronavirus/>