



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
The Correspondence & Enquiry unit
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

7th October 2020

Dear Chancellor,

RE: Additional business support for areas with greater restrictions

As you will know this afternoon Scotland's First Minister set out additional restrictions for Scotland in order to curb the growth of COVID-19. I am writing to ask you, given the lack of borrowing powers of the Scottish Government, for further financial support for areas and sectors most effected. Were Scotland independent we would be able to do what every other European country (including the UK) is doing and borrow on the international markets but given we are not I believe it only right to suggest you add to the substantial borrowing you have already undertaken on our behalf and target it to those areas of greatest need.

In my constituency and across the Forth Valley greater restrictions in a number of areas have been announced but most notably hospitality. This sector has been disproportionately affected by this crisis and, unfortunately, these measures need to be put in place or this crisis will claim even more lives.

I agree with you that it is important the economy starts up again but it is vital that this is balanced with the safety of those in the area. This virus is being managed on a local level throughout the country and I believe that for this reason there should be more targeted support for areas with greater restrictions. Given the current financial arrangements of devolution it is vital that extra support is given to the Scottish Government in order to help businesses and workers to get through these difficult times.

I understand that you have put forward support measures for the entire UK, I have supported most of them. However I write to press the case for further support for those workers and businesses that are in areas which have additional restrictions or local lockdowns due to clusters of cases of COVID-19. I would be grateful for your thoughts on these matters.

I thank you for your attention to this and look forward to your response.

Kind regards,

Alyn Smith MP