



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP,
Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy,
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy,
1 Victoria Street.
London.
SW1H 0ET.

23rd January 2023

Our Ref: AL12062

Dear Secretary of State,

Re: Energy support for business

I am writing on behalf of hospitality businesses across my constituency of Stirling who, having weathered the pandemic, need further support during this difficult time.

Several business owners in Stirling have expressed concerns with the cost of living crisis, and the impact on their operations, staff, customers and community - with high energy bills top of the list. With cost inflation rocketing, energy bills spiralling and a significantly weakened pound, businesses are suffering and downsizing. Others are considering whether to close their doors for good. The current help with energy bills for business is very welcome – but hospitality businesses need to be able to plan, and will need help beyond April 2023.

In the long term there needs to be wholesale reform of the UK energy market which for too long, has treated businesses unfairly. However, in the short term it is extremely short sighted to of allow otherwise viable businesses to go to the wall. The Government should take further action, urgently, to help these businesses by extending the energy support scheme.

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

Kind regards

Alyn Smith MP