



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

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

23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023

Our Ref: AL12062

Dear Chancellor,

**Support for the hospitality industry**

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.

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. Businesses from my constituency have suggested:

- The beer and pubs sector get continued help with energy bills beyond the initial six-month period
- A cut in VAT on food and drink served in pubs
- Reinstating the freeze in alcohol duty for draught beer and cider

What steps will the Government take to help these businesses in the Spring Statement? This sector is a vital part of our national economic and social wellbeing. Investment in this struggling sector would drive growth and generate jobs. I ask that you consider the huge contribution that these businesses and their supply chains have on the economy.

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

Yours sincerely,

Alyn Smith MP