

Rt Hon Robert Jenrick
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

Cc Rt Hon Rishi Sunak; Rt Hon Alok Sharma

4 December 2020

Dear Secretary of State

As we exit national restrictions we enter what will become a critical time for many business sectors who will require further support to remain afloat in what will undoubtedly be a difficult winter period.

As leaders of our places, the welfare of our businesses and our communities is at the forefront of our efforts to respond to the pandemic and recover from its effects.

We want to support the national effort and understand the need for increased levels of restriction as infection rates remain higher than they were in the summer. The approval of the first vaccination is welcome news and begins to pave the way to recovery; however, we stand at a pivotal juncture and what happens now will determine the future for many of our businesses. Taking the necessary and adequate steps to bridge the gap to keep businesses alive and people employed will pay for itself in the long term.

Much of our region has exited the second lockdown in the very highest level of restrictions, with the Humber, South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire all being in Tier 3. Businesses in North Yorkshire also continue with high levels of restrictions although are fortunate to have escaped Tier 3 to date. This comes on top of areas of South and West Yorkshire living with stricter restrictions in advance of the lockdown.

We cannot overstate our extreme concern around the economic impact of continuing restrictions of these levels without increased support; and the escalating impact this is having as time goes on with no certainty around when our businesses will begin to return to trading models and levels that allow them to remain viable. At this time of year in particular businesses are hit hard – with some venues in hospitality and accommodation making 40% of their annual profits between Halloween and January. In addition, many shoppers are likely to stay away from urban centres as part of the enjoyment of shopping is lost if hospitality businesses remain closed, impacting on an even wider range of businesses already struggling with the changing nature of high streets.

Businesses in areas that were put into Tier 2, and then into Tier 3, prior to national lockdown on 5th November need to receive a level of grant that is fair and proportionate to the level of impact they have experienced compared to those in other areas that had little or no restrictions heading into the second national lockdown.

The allocation of funding also does not address the fixed term costs faced by businesses, and there are large gaps around those newly self-employed, those self-employed/freelancers in some of our hardest hit sectors, and businesses with no or low property costs who we will be unable to properly support due to the insufficient level of additional restriction grants. Meaningful intervention, accompanied by reduced administrative burden, would ensure funds provide adequate support to businesses and in a timely manner.

Given the conditions faced by many businesses across the region we believe that the attached submission strongly evidences the case for continued discretionary funding for

businesses in the hardest hit areas. We request that you – and your Cabinet colleagues – urgently review the support to businesses available in our areas that are so badly affected.

This is not about politics, it is about people and businesses. We want to work with you but need additional support to play our part in the national effort. If you work with us now, our economies will be in a stronger position to return to growth and contribute to the overall recovery of UK plc.

We look forward to the ongoing support from Government in sustaining our local economies and our communities.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Stephen Houghton
Leader, Barnsley Council



Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe
Leader, Bradford Council



Cllr Tim Swift
Leader, Calderdale Council



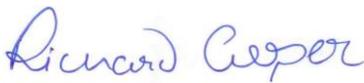
Mayor Ros Jones
Doncaster Council



Cllr Richard Burton
Leader, East Riding of
Yorkshire Council



Cllr Mark Robson
Leader, Hambleton District
Council



Cllr Richard Cooper
Leader, Harrogate Borough
Council



Cllr Stephen Brady
Leader, Hull City Council



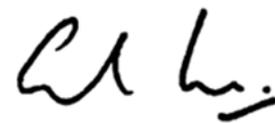
Cllr Shabir Pandor
Leader, Kirklees Council



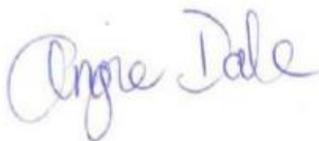
Cllr Judith Blake
Leader, Leeds City Council
and Co-Chair Yorkshire
Leaders Board



Cllr Philip Jackson
Leader, North East
Lincolnshire Council



Cllr Carl Les
Leader, North Yorkshire
County Council and Co-
Chair Yorkshire Leaders
Board



Cllr Angie Dale
Leader, Richmondshire
District Council



Cllr Chris Read
Leader, Rotherham Council



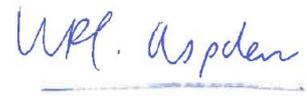
Cllr Mark Crane
Leader, Selby District
Council

Handwritten signature of Dan Jarvis in black ink, underlined with two horizontal lines.

Mayor Dan Jarvis MP
Sheffield City Region

Handwritten signature of Denise Jeffery in black ink.

Cllr Denise Jeffery
Leader, Wakefield Council

Handwritten signature of Keith Aspden in blue ink, underlined with a single horizontal line.

Cllr Keith Aspden
Leader, City of York Council