



Ein cyf/Our ref TO/KS/01051/20

Paul Donovan

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Dear Mr Donovan,

Thank you for your letter of 20 March to the Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales and to the Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism regarding the impact of Covid-19 on your business. Unfortunately, the Ministers are unable to reply in person due to the understandable volume of queries he is receiving. We have provided a comprehensive response below relevant to your queries, alongside key websites and contact points.

For financial support and employer grants, including our Economic Resilience Fund & the Development Bank of Wales Loan scheme, please follow the links below. The Welsh Government Business Grants scheme is administered by Local Authorities, with our Economic Resilience Fund aiming to plug the gaps in the support schemes already announced.

<https://businesswales.gov.wales/financial-support-and-grants>

<https://developmentbank.wales/covid-19-wales-business-loan-scheme>

We are hoping the new Business Rates Relief will be in place as soon as possible. Local Authorities also have the power to provide discretionary relief to ratepayers who are outside the established Non Domestic Rates relief schemes.

While we are departing from the automatic allocation of business rate relief for businesses rated at £500,000 or above, that does not mean we are entirely removing support for meeting these costs. Eligibility will be assessed on a case by case basis by the Welsh Government especially where a strong economic case can be made. The main reason for this approach is to ensure that we are being as measured as possible when it comes to allocation of the Welsh budget in a time of crisis.

For guidance on the scheme, and more information, please follow the link below:

<https://businesswales.gov.wales/business-rates-relief>

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and responding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

For information and support for self-employed:

<https://businesswales.gov.wales/support-self-employed>

The links below will take you to further information on specific subject areas:

- UK Government Business support <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-employees-employers-and-businesses>
- HMRC also has a Coronavirus helpline for businesses and self-employed people and is available on 0800 0159 559.
- UK Government guidance to employers and businesses about Covid-19 including information and guidance on areas such as Statutory Sick Pay, advice for employees which have travelled to high risk areas and home working
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19>

Please refer to the Business Wales website for further regular updates -
<https://businesswales.gov.wales/coronavirus-advice>.

The Welsh Government recognises the incredibly difficult and uncertain circumstances that businesses and individuals are experiencing. We are absolutely committed to providing the support and assurance the business community needs.

Yours sincerely,

The Business Wales Team