

MC2020/07112



HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

Caroline Lucas MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Caroline,

Thank you for your email of 19 March to the Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP enclosing correspondence about COVID 19 business support. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

The Government has announced unprecedented support for public services, workers and businesses to protect against the current economic emergency. In the Budget, we set out the first stage of the government's economic response, with £12 billion of support to businesses, households and public services, including the £5 billion Covid-19 Response Fund to support the NHS and other public services, and said that we would go further if necessary. On 17 March we extended the support available to individuals and businesses, including a business rates holiday, grants to smaller businesses and a package of government-backed and guaranteed loans, which make available an initial £330 billion of guarantees – equivalent to 15% of GDP. On 20 March we announced a package to help individuals affected by the crisis. This covered a Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, as well as changes to our welfare system including Universal Credit and Statutory Sick Pay, making it quicker and easier to access support as well as more generous. These measures will support millions of families, businesses and self-employed people to get through this and emerge on the other side both stronger and more united.

Thank you for taking the trouble to make me aware of these concerns.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Steve Barclay'.

RT HON STEVE BARCLAY MP