



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

Holly Mumby-Croft MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

17 November 2020

Dear Holly,

Thank you for your letter of 2 November to the Chancellor of the Exchequer enclosing correspondence about COVID-19 Discretionary Grants Fund. Your letter has been passed to the Treasury and I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

The past few months have been a difficult and disorienting time for individuals and businesses across the country and the Government is very grateful for people's patience as it works to protect the NHS and save lives.

The Government recognises that businesses which are legally required to close due to national or local restrictions will need additional support. This is why we have announced the Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) scheme, which will provide businesses required to close with grants of up to £3,000 per four-week closure period.

In addition, all local authorities in England will receive additional funding via the Additional Restrictions Grant to support their local economies. This is a total of £1.1 billion across England. This will replace the Local Authority Discretionary Grant Fund, which is now closed, and is twice as generous as the previous Discretionary Grant Fund.

We encourage Local Authorities to set up a discretionary grant scheme using this funding e.g. for those businesses who are affected by closures, but which are not legally closed themselves. However, Local Authorities can also use it to support businesses indirectly including by providing additional guidance and support for businesses in their areas.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kemi Badenoch'.

KEMI BADENOCH MP