



Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee

The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP
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The Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP,
Chief Secretary to the Treasury,
UK Government

economyenergyandfairwork@parliament.scot

Sent by email only

26 May 2020

Dear Steve,

COVID-19 – impact on businesses, workers and the economy

Thank you for your response (dated 11 May) to the Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee's letter of 16 April on COVID-19 and its impact on the economy, businesses and workers in Scotland.

The Committee was disappointed with the time taken to respond to its letter and the lack of detail in the response. Given the cross-cutting nature of the pandemic, it is important for the Committee to be kept abreast of developments both north and south of the border.

Given this, the Committee would like to invite you to give evidence at one of its meetings prior to the end of June. The Committee is currently holding virtual meetings so that should hopefully enable your participation. I would be grateful if you could confirm whether you are able to attend one of the Committee's forthcoming sessions. The Clerk to the Committee can liaise with your officials on the arrangements.

Given the fast-moving pace of developments in this policy area, the Committee would also like to ask you to provide regular written updates with Scotland-specific data on the UK Government economic response to COVID-19, including: the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme, the Job Retention Scheme, the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme and the Bounce Back Loan Scheme. I would be grateful if you could confirm whether the UK Government can make this data available to the Committee, and provide updates on a regular basis.

The Committee is keen to explore the provision of these schemes and how they are supporting businesses in Scotland, as well as any gaps in support. The Committee would also like to explore future arrangements for business support during the re-opening of the economy and the UK Government's plans to support the economy as the crisis abates.

I would be grateful to receive a response within one week of the date of this letter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michelle Ballantyne', followed by a small comma.

Michelle Ballantyne MSP, Convener