



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

Michelle Ballantyne MSP
Convener of the Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

29 June 2020

Dear Michelle,

COVID-19 – IMPACT ON BUSINESSES, WORKERS AND THE ECONOMY

1. Thank you for your letter of 16 June 2020 regarding the Covid-19 response and the impact on the economy, businesses and workers in Scotland.
2. I understand the importance of the Covid-19 support schemes for the Committee in establishing how to support the economy in Scotland. As your letter notes, the geographic data on CJRS and SEISS was made available by the UK Government on 11 June and will be published online by HMRC on a monthly basis. This data confirmed that Scotland has 628,000 employments furloughed through the CJRS and self-employed individuals in Scotland have made 146,000 claims through the SEISS totalling £425m.
3. The UK Government has been publishing the UK-wide applications and approvals from all three lending schemes on a weekly basis since 12 May. I can confirm the latest data published on 22 June which over 920,000 approvals for BBLs loans at a value of over £28 billion. As of 22 June, there has been over 50,000 approvals for CBILS facilities worth over £10.5 billion; and 315 approvals for CLBILS facilities at £2.1 billion.
4. I understand the value of the geographical breakdown of these lending schemes and my officials are working closely with UK Finance and the British Business Bank to consider how to publish aggregated data on a regular basis going forwards. We will share the data with you as soon as it is available.
5. Regarding your invitation, UK Government ministers are accountable to the UK Parliament for the operation of these schemes in all parts of the UK. For reasons of



practicality and because these policies are in areas of reserved competence, I cannot agree to appear in front of the devolved legislatures to discuss their application in each nation separately.

6. However, I have committed to close and constructive engagement with the Scottish Government, and I intend to share information with you and with Scottish ministers as freely as I am able. The UK Government will continue to publish regular information about its economic support schemes.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Steve Barclay'.

RT HON STEVE BARCLAY MP