



Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee

Fiona Hyslop MSP,
Cabinet Secretary for Economy,
Fair Work and Culture,
Scottish Government

The Scottish Parliament
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Sent by email only

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Dear Fiona,

COVID-19 – impact on the economy (including businesses, workers and the third sector)

As you are aware, following the meeting of the Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee on Tuesday 24th March, the Committee agreed to launch an open call for views on the impact of COVID-19 on businesses, the economy and workers.

Several submissions have been received and these can be found [here](#).

An informal virtual meeting of the Committee took place on 4 May to discuss next steps in relation to the inquiry. The Committee agreed to write to you regarding a number of issues outlined below.

Four-step economic plan

In a statement to the Parliament on 21 April, you stated that the Scottish Government has been building consensus in recent weeks in support of its four-step economic plan (4 Rs - Response, Reset, Restart, Recover) and that you plan to work together with industry sector leads and trade unions to develop sector-by-sector guidance to give assurance and confidence as closed businesses - at some point - reopen and restart economic activity. I would be grateful if you could clarify the following:

- Does the Scottish Government plan to publish the four-step economic plan, and if so, when will it be published?
- When is the sectoral guidance due to be published? How many sectors are included? Who is involved from industry?

Data

The Committee notes that COVID-19 business support fund grant statistics were published on 28 April, and also notes the information available via the [SAA valuation roll](#). I note from your letter to the Committee of 25 April that the Scottish Government does not currently collect information on grants awarded by economic sector. As set out in my letter of 16 April, it is important that there is transparency regarding how these funds are being awarded. The Committee would ask the

Scottish Government to publish information which is gathered via the applications for COVID-19 business support funding, including: name of the business, type of business and number of employees. The publication of this data would allow the Committee and others to analyse the impact of the funding.

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

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michelle Ballantyne', with a small flourish at the end.

Michelle Ballantyne MSP
Convener