

ECONOMY, ENERGY AND FAIR WORK COMMITTEE

COVID-19 – impact on Scotland’s businesses, workers and economy

SUBMISSION FROM

As the owner of a well-known and long established public house in the east end of Glasgow I welcome the swift response to the crisis brought about by Covid19, I realise that this has been an unprecedented and very challenging situation to deal with so accept it is inevitable that the package of measures put in place will need to be fine-tuned to ensure that businesses do not miss out on available help.

There are numerous viable and established businesses, who contribute to the local and national economy, paying corporation/self-assessment tax, generating staff tax; N.I. as wellbeing focal points for local communities and providing a welcome to visitors to Scotland.

When we return to a more normal way of life and try to re-start the economy these businesses can play an important part in economic regeneration, I believe we need the hospitality industry in all its various forms to help make our cities, towns and villages places worth visiting. several points urgently need to be addressed.

1. Why are businesses with a R.V. over £51,000 being denied grants? This makes no sense and seems to penalise them for building up a healthy turnover.
2. Why only 75% for additional properties? This also makes no sense and again seems to penalise success.
3. Time taken to pay out grants (in my case three weeks from applying and counting) as we are paying our staff wages as well as essential outgoings, utilities etc hope these issues can be resolved and we can be ready to welcome **our customers back**.

Billy Gold,
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