



# Treasury Committee

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Rt Hon. Rishi Sunak MP  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
HM Treasury  
Via Email

1 July 2020

Dear Rishi,

The lockdown in Leicester will be difficult both for the people affected and for the local economy. Given recent reports, it potentially will not be the last such local lockdown.

These measures need to succeed to protect Leicester and the wider country. To ensure that success, both people and businesses within any affected area must feel that they are being materially supported. Not to do so may force people to breach the local lockdown, given that neighbouring areas will see higher levels of economic activity. Such local lockdown areas may also see significant risks of job losses, business failures and lasting economic scars. I am therefore requesting the following information on HM Treasury's approach to those affected by local lockdowns:

- What planning for support in local lockdowns had the Treasury already prepared?
- Will additional support be provided to local services in such local lockdown areas, whether the NHS or local authority or other local agency, and if so, how quickly will such support be provided? Has the Treasury already received any requests for such support?
- Will there be any flexibility introduced into the national support measures, such as SEISS and CJRS, or in the reinstatement of benefit sanctions, given that those in these areas will not be benefitting from the lockdown easing measures seen in the rest of the country, and some firms that have so far not used these schemes may now need support?
- Will the Government-backed loan schemes, payment holidays, or business grants be expanded at a local level?
- Will the Treasury be engaging with financial services in these areas to look at lengthening repayment holidays, or other support measures?
- What additional support, if any, will be provided to local people and businesses?

I would welcome your response on these points as soon as possible, given such local lockdowns have already begun. I will be placing this letter, and your reply, in the public domain.

Yours sincerely,

**Rt Hon. Mel Stride MP**  
**Chair of the Treasury Committee**