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The Rt Hon. Rishi Sunak MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
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30 October 2020

Dear Rishi,

On 17 November, the Economic Affairs Committee will hold the final evidence session in its long-running inquiry on the employment consequences of COVID-19. I have been informed that you are unable to give evidence and have asked the Financial Secretary to do so in your place.

We are of course grateful to Mr Norman for his willingness to give evidence, as indeed we are to him for agreeing to give evidence to the Finance Bill Sub-Committee next week. However, the Financial Secretary's ministerial responsibilities are outside the scope of our employment inquiry, and therefore it would be inappropriate to take evidence from him.

Our inquiry has focused extensively on matters relating to labour market policy, along with skills, welfare reform and investment, all of which are in the portfolio of the Chief Secretary. It is vital to the inquiry that we take evidence from the Chief Secretary as the responsible Minister, if we are unable to take evidence from you as Chancellor.

During our evidence session on the 17 November, we will of course be sensitive to the timing of the upcoming Spending Review in our questions. I look forward to hearing from you soon on this matter which is important for the completion of our inquiry.

Yours ever,

Lord Forsyth of Drumlean
Chairman of the Economic Affairs Committee

CC Rt Hon. Steven Barclay MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury
Rt Hon. Jesse Norman MP, Financial Secretary to the Treasury