



Treasury Committee

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

23 November 2020

Dear Rishi,

Your recent announcements of the extension of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and the Self Employment Income Support Scheme will have been welcomed by many. However, the Committee deeply regrets that the concerns in the first report of our inquiry into the economic impact of coronavirus, *Gaps in Support*, have not been addressed. There are still many who are excluded from both these schemes through no fault of their own.

We note that the Scottish Government has set up a Newly Self-Employed Hardship Fund administered by local authorities.

In addition, the Northern Ireland Executive has set up an Individuals Emergency Resilience Programme and ring-fenced some further amounts to assist individual artists/freelancers in the arts industry. It has also set up a Covid Restrictions Business Support Scheme. This scheme aims to help small businesses that do not have premises, such as driving instructors, mobile hairdressers, and also businesses, such as cleaners and caterers, that have not been forced to close but act as part of the supply chain to businesses forced to close.

I would be grateful if you would explore similar initiatives on behalf of those who are not eligible for either the Self-employed Income Support Scheme or the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. Where you decide that these approaches are not appropriate, I would be grateful if you could set out your rationale.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon. Mel Stride MP
Chair of the Treasury Committee