



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

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Dear Rachel,


**British Business Bank (BBB): Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme –
Written Ministerial Statement (WMS)**

I intend to lay a WMS in the House on 23 March with regard to the new Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme. I attach a copy along with the accompanying Departmental Minute for completeness. Lord Callanan will lay the same in the House of Lords.

Given the urgency of launching this scheme to support SMEs affected by the coronavirus outbreak, it will not be possible for the full 14 parliamentary sitting days for the WMS to be fully completed.

In this regard, I have been advised by the House of Commons Journal Office that the 14-day period is 'government practice', not a statutory obligation. I am therefore writing to both you and the Chair of the Public Accounts Committee, in accordance with Managing Public Money.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kent *Sharma,*


RT HON ALOK SHARMA MP
Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy