



Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

020 7219 5777 - beiscom@parliament.uk - www.parliament.uk/beis - @CommonsBEIS

Tim Martin

JD Wetherspoon Plc

24 March 2020

Dear Tim,

I am writing to ask for detailed information about the measures that Wetherspoons is taking to support its employees during the current coronavirus crisis.

This is a national emergency, and governments, citizens and businesses are taking unprecedented measures to protect lives and livelihoods.

I was therefore disappointed to read that you have not indicated whether you intend to cover the wages of your staff until government support comes through. This is despite other companies in your industry guaranteeing that they will pay their staff for at least eight weeks. Furthermore, you also seem to have suggested that when the government do pay 80% of your staff's wages you might not pay the other 20%. Finally, I am deeply concerned that while you encourage your workforce to consider working for supermarkets you note that if they do you will give them "first preference" if they "want to come back".

Please can you therefore confirm:

- How many of your staff will be furloughed?
- Will you pay your staff's wages up until the Government's money comes through?
- Will you pay the remaining 20% of your staff's wages when Government support begins and, if so, will this be for all your staff?
 - For instance, will you treat your staff differently according to their wages and duties and only top-up wages over a certain pay threshold?
- How you will pay and treat staff that you employ who are on zero hour contracts?
- What will be the status of your workers if they work for supermarkets or engage in other essential work?
- Will your staff have to reapply for their jobs when the present crisis is over?

- How are you ensuring the health and safety of those staff that are still working for Wetherspoons, for instance in administration, HR and payroll?

Given the seriousness of the situation, and the Committee's deep concerns about your approach in recent days, I would appreciate a reply by Friday 27 March.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel Reeves." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rachel Reeves MP

Chair of the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee