



HM Treasury

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Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown
Chair of the Public Account Committee
House of Commons
London
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[By email]

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Dear Sir Geoffrey,

LOCAL AUTHORITY ADMINISTERED COVID SUPPORT SCHEMES IN ENGLAND

I am writing to update you further on the work His Majesty's Treasury has undertaken to capture the lessons learnt from supporting businesses during the Covid-19 pandemic, as recommended by the Public Accounts Committee in its July 2023 report on "Local authority administered COVID support schemes in England".

As committed in my previous correspondence, HM Treasury commissioned an external supplier to conduct a meta-evaluation of the evidence and analysis relating to the various business support schemes administered by local authorities. I am pleased to confirm that this meta-evaluation has now been completed and published.

The report addresses questions about the impact and effectiveness of the Government's Covid-19 Business Support during the peak period for the response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The evidence from this meta-evaluation is part of HMT's work to capture and distil lessons from the experience of supporting businesses through the pandemic. It focuses on effectiveness of, and lessons learned from, co-ordination of activity, delivery of schemes and the overarching reach and coverage of the business support offer.

The meta-evaluation is available on the HM Treasury website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-business-support-meta-evaluation>, and I would be happy to provide any further information the Committee may require.

Thank you for your continued engagement with this important area of work.

James Bowler
Permanent Secretary