



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Mark Pawsey MP
Acting Chair, BEIS Select Committee
House of Commons
Westminster
SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP
Secretary of State
Department for Business,
Energy & Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

T +44 (0) 20 7215 5000
E enquiries@beis.gov.uk
W www.gov.uk

20 April 2020

Dear Mark

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

I notified the Chair of the BEIS Select Committee in my letter of 6 April of the government's intention to launch a Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CLBILS) to support businesses which had hitherto been ineligible for the existing Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS). This will incur a new contingent liability.

Although we have the statutory authority to incur this contingent liability, it is good practice for the Government to notify Parliament of a new contingent liability of this size. I therefore intend to lay a written statement and an accompanying Departmental Minute for CLBILS in the House on 22 April. Lord Callanan will lay the same in the House of Lords.

As with the original CBILS scheme, the urgency of launching this scheme to support businesses affected by the coronavirus outbreak means it will not be possible to wait the usual 14 parliamentary sitting days for Members to review the WMS, before incurring the contingent liability.

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 BEIS Select Committee, in accordance with Managing Public Money.

In my letter of 6 April I also notified the Chair of my intention to lay a written statement to inform the House of changes we have made to the existing CBILS scheme to ensure more businesses can benefit from that scheme. I also intend to lay that statement separately on 22 April, with Lord Callanan doing the same in the Lords.

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

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

