

## **Submission of Evidence to the Treasury Select Committee Inquiry on the Economic Impact of Coronavirus**

By the  
Guild of British Camera Technician

The Guild of British Camera Technician (GBCT) represents camera crew members working in the production of Feature Films, High-End Television Drama and Advertising. All of our members are very highly skilled with both technical and artistic expertise. All the work in these areas is intermittent in nature whether through Personal Service Companies, Sole-Trading or PAYE working. Contracts are short, often counted in days or weeks. By its very nature the work is carried out in close proximity to other crew members at a place dictated by the production. Home working is not possible.

As of Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March, all production has ceased, either by productions calling a hiatus in shooting or by postponing the start of shooting. These measures are for an indefinite period. The intermittent nature of the work means that income is intermittent and only paid when work is done. No work means no income. All of our members now have no work whether they are ill or not. While most technicians spread their income to cover the gaps between contracts, a prolonged hiatus is beyond the resources of most. To make help only available to the provably sick would make our members' situations impossible and our industry (which brings in over £3bn of inward investment) would not be able to hold on to its vital workforce.

What is required for our industry to keep its pool of expertise intact is for our members to be able to subsist until productions begin to shoot again. The following measure would contribute to making this possible:

1. Proportionate payments (i.e. 80%) based on previous year's tax returns.
2. Postponement of the next 'payment on account' for self-employed workers.

These measures can be seen as palatable to the Treasury as any payments would become part of the workers' taxable income making some of it recoverable through later tax payments and 'payments on account' will eventually fall due.

Tim Potter  
Chair of the Board of Governors