



Mel Stride MP
Chair, Treasury Committee
House of Commons
London, SW1A 0AA

25 March 2020

Dear Mr Stride,

I understand that the Committee has been overwhelmed with responses to your inquiry into the economic impact of the coronavirus. In your follow-up letter to the Chancellor, you highlighted the need for urgent measures to support the self-employed. The Finance & Leasing Association's (FLA) evidence to the Committee identified a number of obstacles which make it challenging for lenders to support their customers, many of whom are self-employed. FLA members provided £140 billion of new finance to UK businesses and households in 2019.

We have suggested changes – via secondary legislation – to the Consumer Credit (Agreements) Regulations 2010 to enable lenders to offer forbearance in a swift, more efficient manner than the Consumer Credit Act currently allows. Urgent action is also required to better align and increase the eligibility for the various support schemes managed by the Bank of England, the Government and the British Business Bank, for example to non-bank lenders and smaller banks, which if resolved, would allow lenders to better support customers, including the many self-employed. I attach a copy of my letter to the Economic Secretary, which makes these points.

I would be happy to provide evidence to the Committee.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Stephen Haddrill', is positioned above a horizontal blue line.

Stephen Haddrill
Director General