

Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP

Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London SW1A 2HQ

Date: 19 November 2020

Dear Chancellor,

As our country battles through the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, we are doing everything within our power to stop the spread of the virus and protect the people we represent from the economic and social impacts of this cruel disease – the consequences of which will be felt for years to come.

Covid-19 and the necessary national restrictions have presented the most unforeseen challenges to many people and businesses across the UK. We welcomed the emergency financial support the Government provided throughout this crisis, including the recent furlough extension and additional support for the self-employed. Yet despite this there remain, according to the National Audit Office, a staggering 2.9 million people who are simply not eligible for the Covid-19 financial support schemes.

This is an intolerable position for these businesses and individuals to still be in. After eight months without support many are facing continued financial hardship through no fault of their own and huge uncertainty ahead – their incomes have dried up but they can't access the financial support they desperately need. Once these businesses are gone – they are likely to be gone for good. That is why we are asking you to urgently address their situation in the Spending Review next week.

Specifically, we are calling on you to:

- Rectify the significant gaps in the self-employed scheme that leaves out the newly self-employed, those who pay themselves in dividends, those earning a mix of PAYE and self-employed income, freelancers, some sole traders, those denied furlough and businesses who have missed out on support.
- Fundamentally reform the self-employed scheme to reduce the number of people excluded and better reflect loss of earnings.
- Focus on making the UK's main safety net work better for these workers given so many self-employed workers are relying on Universal Credit instead.

We have each written previously to you on these issues and we are also coming together to give our support to Excluded UK's excellent campaign to raise the profile of the three million people who have no access to support.

Our regions and indeed the country will not be able to fully recover from this pandemic while so many who contributed to the UK economy – both innovators and wealth creators – are left behind as a result of COVID-19. The Spending Review is an opportunity to rectify this. We urge that you do.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London



Andy Burnham
Mayor of Greater Manchester



Steve Rotherham
Mayor of Liverpool City Region