



Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP  
Chancellor of the Exchequer

20 October 2020

Dear Chancellor

Thank you for your letter of 19 October replying to mine of 16 October.

I am of course deeply disappointed with the response.

I am very concerned, as set out in my previous letter, that in the worst-affected sectors, leisure and hospitality, it is likely that many staff who will be laid off as a result of the necessary decision to close down all non-essential businesses from 23 October will not fulfil the eligibility criteria to be enrolled on the Job Retention Scheme (JRS) for its last week of operation.

Employers with no income will be faced with the difficult decision of paying all of the wage costs of these employees or making them redundant.

It makes no sense from the point of view of the UK Exchequer to have to meet the possible long-term costs of paying out-of-work benefits to these individuals for the sake of one week's support on the JRS.

Will you therefore agree in these exceptional circumstances to waive the requirement for employees for whom JRS is claimed for this period to have been on furlough for at least three weeks prior to 30 June? Instead, could the qualifying criteria for the Job Support Scheme apply, i.e. all employers with a UK bank account and a UK PAYE scheme registered on or before 23 September 2020 can claim provided a Real Time Information submission notifying payment to employees to HMRC has been made on or before this date?

I look forward to your response.

I am copying this letter to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, the Secretary of State for Wales, the First Minister of Scotland and the First and deputy First Ministers of Northern Ireland.

Best wishes

**Personal Data**

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We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.