



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1156  
Ein cyf/Our ref KS/01960/21

Janet Finch-Saunders MS  
Chair, Petitions Committee

8 April 2021

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your correspondence of 29 March regarding Petition P-05-1156 - Match the funding for small businesses during lockdown with England - including the restart grant.

The Welsh Government recognises the incredibly difficult and uncertain circumstances currently being experienced by businesses and individuals. We are absolutely committed to providing the support and assurance the business community needs.

Our generous package of financial support for Welsh businesses will continue throughout April and into May. Many businesses will already have received their full share of the £180m funding announced in mid-March upfront to see them through until May, for others, including in the hospitality and tourism sector, cash grants will continue to be paid during April as applications are confirmed. Businesses will therefore see no interruption in the flow of financial support, as we move cautiously to relax public health restrictions.

The Welsh Government has made unprecedented levels of funding available to support Welsh businesses during these incredibly challenging times, with a full 12 month rates holiday package for those in the hardest hit sectors that goes considerably beyond the relief available to businesses in England. To date we have provided more than two billion pounds in business support during the pandemic, safeguarding 165,000 Welsh jobs.

Another £200m in additional support for business has already been earmarked in the Final Budget 2021-22 – final decisions on this will be for the next administration following May's Senedd elections.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

A pub, hotel or restaurant in Wales with ten staff would have been entitled to £45,000 in Welsh Government support to see them through from December onwards. This is on top of both our and our business rates relief scheme and UK Government support to cover staff costs. A pub, hotel or restaurant with four staff would have been entitled to £27,000 in Welsh Government support – alongside the other support available.

You may also wish to note that on 23 February we also announced an additional £270m for the Development Bank of Wales' Flexible Investment Fund. This means more than £500m will be available through the fund up to 2030 to support the long term success and growth of our firms, in turn creating and protecting thousands of Welsh jobs.

<https://developmentbank.wales>

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken', written in a cursive style.

**Ken Skates AS/MS**

Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales