

Rebecca Evans AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Finance and Trefnydd



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1061
Ein cyf/Our ref RE/00824/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Member of the Senedd
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
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Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

30 October 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your correspondence dated 27 October regarding the petition for financial support for the pet boarding industry in Wales.

We have created an enhanced Phase 3 of our Wales-only Economic Resilience Fund (ERF) of almost £300m, which includes an extra £150m to support to businesses affected by the firebreak.

In addition, the Welsh Government has now also stepped in to increase by £5 million the £20 million discretionary fund provided to local authorities to support businesses retain those workers at risk of falling through the gaps in support. This fund is on top of the £300 million package of grants.

An extra £5 million will also be provided to the Discretionary Assistance Fund which provides grants to people in need of urgent help during the crisis, including those waiting for benefit payments and those in employment who are facing hardship:

<https://gov.wales/discretionary-assistance-fund-daf>

The demand for the Business Development Grants has been exceptional, and at the point of writing the fund is paused to allow an assessment of applications made against fund value. Please refer to this page for updates:

<https://fundchecker.businesswales.gov.wales/erfphase3>

The Lockdown Business Fund (which includes the aforementioned discretionary grant) is also open for applications, via local authorities, now:

<https://businesswales.gov.wales/coronavirus-advice/lockdown-business-fund>

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

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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.

Whilst only one element (£20m) of the Business Development Grant is linked to Tourism specifically, £80m of it is available across the economy and both other elements are open to non-tourism businesses.

Most businesses required to close should also be able to access the support available from the UK Government – through the existing Job Retention Scheme or the new expanded Job Support Scheme.

The package has been designed to be affordable within the available funding, and we had to take difficult decisions on the eligibility criteria. The measures we have taken are in addition to those provided by the UK Government, making the support package in Wales the most comprehensive and generous in the UK.

We will also go on pressing the UK Government to be responsive and responsible in terms of supporting those who continue to fall through the gaps, who have yet to receive support that is required in order to ensure that their enterprises can survive this pandemic.

Business Wales also has a wide range of non-financial advisory support available. Any business affected is encouraged to visit the Business Wales website <https://businesswales.gov.wales> or contact the Business Wales helpline on 03000 6 03000. The Business Wales Helpline is available Monday to Friday from 10am to 4pm.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R' and a long tail on the 's'.

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