



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-983
Ein cyf/Our ref RE/00433/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee

8 July 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter in your role as Chair of the Petitions Committee about non-domestic rates grant support for businesses.

The Welsh Government will be providing £1.7 billion of support to help businesses in Wales during the Coronavirus outbreak.

The Welsh Government recognises that not all businesses will benefit from the rates relief and grant support being provided. The package has been designed to be affordable within the available funding.

However, the Welsh Government has established a further package of support to help businesses which are not eligible for the rates relief or rates-related business grants. On 30 March, the First Minister announced a £500 million support package to be delivered through our new Economic Resilience Fund (ERF). The Fund supports firms of all sizes, with a focus on those that have not benefited from the rates relief and coronavirus grants.

The ERF eligibility checker re-opened on Tuesday 9 June and the fund is now open for new applications. The eligibility checker can be found at:

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

The next phase of the Fund will enable businesses to access a further £100m of the ERF. This will be targeted at microbusinesses, SMEs and large businesses of critical economic importance who have yet to receive financial assistance from the ERF.

In the meantime, we are calling on the UK Government to go further with its support and provide the vital funding Welsh businesses need to survive and recover from the coronavirus pandemic.

We have reprioritised budgets to create the most generous business support offer in the UK to support sustainable businesses and the jobs they provide. The £1.7bn package we have

allocated goes beyond the related funding we have received from the UK Government to maximise the support we can offer during this crisis.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans." The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

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