



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-980
Ein cyf/Our ref RE/00429/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee

10 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 is providing £1.7 billion of support to help businesses in Wales during the coronavirus outbreak. The package includes more than £350m to help businesses with their non-domestic rates bills during this financial year. Alongside this extra rates relief, over £875m is available for a non-domestic rates related grant scheme for businesses and not-for-profit organisations.

In Wales, the Economic Resilience Fund which was launched on 30 March has provided additional support to businesses which do not qualify for non-domestic rates related grants, as well as providing a range of other business support. The Fund supports firms of all sizes, with a focus on those that have not benefited from the rates relief and coronavirus grants. This support was in place prior to the UK Government's announcement of the local authority discretionary fund.

Phase 2 of the Economic Resilience Fund was announced on 22 May. It will enable access to the remaining £100m of the £300m already approved and allocated to support micro-businesses, small and medium enterprises, and large businesses. Limited companies which are not VAT registered will now also be able to access the Fund.

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

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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.

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 clear, legible font.

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