



Cabinet Secretary for Finance
Kate Forbes MSP

T : 0300 244 4000
E : scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Stephen Montgomery
theslta@aol.com

Our Reference: 202000046276
Your Reference: Stephen Montgomery SLTA

25 June 2020

Dear Mr Montgomery,

Thank you for your correspondence of 9 June regarding the extension of coronavirus business support scheme to some small businesses who rent or lease properties from a landlord. Please accept my apology for the delay in responding.

I am sorry to hear that you remain disappointed with the support available to business. We have offered a package of business support worth more than £2.3 billion to reflect the specific needs of the Scottish economy. This includes sectoral schemes such as the 100% rates relief for tourism, retail and hospitality businesses, and focused assistance for groups such as fishermen, the self-employed and small B&Bs. We continue to press the UK Government over financial assistance schemes to rectify gaps where they exist and since my last letter to you, the Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Tourism and I have written jointly to the Chancellor.

You raise a specific issue regarding the closure of the business support grant fund on 10 July and whether there will be an allowance for businesses undergoing a rates appeal. Eligibility is based on the local authority records for property use and rateable value as at 17 March 2020. This cut-off date for eligibility is intended to mitigate against behaviour changes or potential abuses of the grant funds as a result of the scheme being announced. For that reason, any ongoing appeals are not relevant to the eligibility for the grant, and this position will not change when the scheme closes.

Please be assured we are listening to business and doing everything can to support business at this



difficult time and on the closure of the scheme, any remaining money will be re-routed to where support is most required. I am also aware that you raised a number of issues directly with the First Minister yesterday and that these are being taken forward.

Yours sincerely



KATE FORBES

