

DOC 1

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 07 October 2020 16:11

To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>

Subject: Help for Hospitality Businesses

AO [REDACTED]

Dear First Minister

Your announcement today of a £40million support package for businesses affected by the further restrictions was most welcome, as was your statement that you wish to consult with relevant trade bodies and business organisations regarding how best to allocate these funds.

The purpose of my email is to make you aware of the existence of small hospitality businesses such as mine that are likely to fall between the cracks when allocating funds. By highlighting our situation, it's my hope that our position will be considered in your decision making.

I run an outside catering business with no café or retail outlet and so I'm not represented by any of the hospitality industry bodies that represent restaurants, cafes and venues. We provided catering for business lunches, weddings, parties and events, all income streams which fell off the cliff in March. Customer deposits have been returned, all permanent staff have been made redundant, with redundancy payments made from my own savings and as a company director I only receive a minimal amount of income from the furlough scheme. We were a viable business that have traded successfully for 17 years and lease two units, I firmly believe that we can build our business again and diversify so I hope that you can take businesses such as this into account when determining the allocation of funds.

Incidentally, despite being seriously affected by Coronavirus restrictions, I strongly support tightening of these across the hospitality sector.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

DOC 2

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 October 2020 13:06
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Subject: Fwd: Hospitality lockdown

AO - [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 7 October 2020 at 22:37:54 BST
To: Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot
Subject: Hospitality lockdown

As the owner of a public house for forty years and trying to keep ten people in employment under difficult circumstances I cannot understand how supermarkets and off sales are still being allowed to sell alcohol to the public. If your "experts" say 20% of positive cases are caused by the hospitality sector then what about remaining 80%?

How do you propose to deal with that? Why are supermarkets and off sales allowed to continue to trade? This encourages people to buy alcohol there and gather at house parties as you have no measures in place to prevent this.

People like me who have went to a great expense to make premises a safe environment for customers and staff feel betrayed because we seem to be an easy target.

It's concerning that there's no common sense applied to any of these decisions.

I await your reply

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

DOC 3

-----Original Message-----

From: First Ministers Website Mailbox <FirstMinisterWebsite@gov.scot>

Sent: 07 October 2020 22:05

To: Public Engagement Unit <CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: Closure?

From:

[FirstMinisterWebsite@gov.scot][SMTP:FIRSTMINISTERWEBSITE@GOV.SCOT]

Sent: 07 October 2020 22:02:51

To: First Ministers Website Mailbox

Subject: Closure?

Auto forwarded by a Rule

From: [REDACTED]

Subject: Closure?

Message Body:

I own a cafe in Marchmont that serves the community.

We have a license to serve alcohol but have not made use of this since February, We currently stock no alcohol on site, have no alcohol on our menu, and have not served any alcohol since prior to March (this can be checked).. I did not feel, given the climate, that it would be responsible to sell alcohol.

We are now being asked to close again, despite the fact we are a cafe, open 9-3 and are not serving any alcohol.

Please can you Advise if we should close? I believe we are an important part of our community. If we have to close, what compensation will we receive?

Warm regards

[REDACTED]

DOC 4

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 08 October 2020 00:11

To: Covid Exit Strategy <covidexitstrategy@gov.scot>

Subject: Cafe in tourism attraction : how the new rules apply

Dear SG Officials,

Please could you provide some urgent clarification on the blanket statement that if premises are licensed, and you live in one of the 5 more targeted local health authority areas that you have to close the cafe offering for 2 weeks by 6pm this Friday until the 25th October.

Our cafe is an important part of our tourism attraction and a community focal point. Alcohol sales are a small part of our income revenue and we would be happy to suspend these in order to keep our cafe open. We are only open from 10am-5pm as it is now.

We've worked incredibly hard, in very difficult circumstances, to get our Charity back on its feet and are fighting day by day to recover enough to see us through the winter months ahead. Our cafe is an important part of our not-for-profit income stream and we have spent a considerable amount of money on COVID19 safe working practices. Please don't lump us in with larger hospitality venues.

Grateful if we could have clarification before the new regulations come into place so that we can advise our staff team and customers of the action we have to take.

Regards,
[REDACTED]

First Minister
Bute House
5 Charlotte Square
Edinburgh EH2 4DR
9th October 2020

Dear First Minister,

I'm writing on behalf of over 100 Scottish hotels and hospitality businesses who firmly understand the need for the Scottish Government to act decisively to control the re-emergence of coronavirus in Scotland.

It is a difficult and narrow tightrope to walk between the critical importance of protecting our health and the vital preservation of our economic stability. In this regard, we are writing to urge you to amend one of the rules in your recent introduction of new measures on the hospitality sector.

Not being able to sell alcohol to hotel residents in Scotland negatively impacts their stay and future guests are already starting to cancel their bookings. This measure is threatening the small thread of revenue – a lifeline for many – which still exists for hotel businesses in Scotland at this difficult time. Hotel owners and leaders who have signed this letter operate strict safety protocols to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Indeed, we have invested, for all of us, large amounts of money to ensure our hotels are the safest places they can be. Our teams rigorously stick to wearing the necessary PPE and make sure that our guests are abiding by the social distancing and other measures at all times. Under the new guidelines, wedding parties already booked in are able to consume alcohol yet the guests nearby, and under the same roof, are unable to. You can imagine the pressure on hotel staff, and the potential threats they might face, having to negotiate with different guests over the measures.

It is unreasonable to expect staff to deal with this especially if guests try and join the wedding groups in order to drink alcohol. We urge you to reconsider this and allow hotel guests, staying a minimum of one night, to consume alcohol in all settings, not simply room service alone. In addition, we believe that we should be able to serve non-residents until 6pm, as a café is allowed to do. Not only are we 100% certain we can do this safely under existing Covid-19 measures but it would also enable our businesses, Scottish businesses, to try to survive at this difficult time.

If there is no change, we have no doubt that we will suffer deeper losses. We are talking about trying to survive, not about profitability. Without this small change in your policy, there will be thousands more job losses in the coming month.

Hospitality is part of the solution to Covid-19's negative economic effects and not the problem. We are confident we can do what is right and protect the country with this change.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Other signatories to this letter are:

[REDACTED]

Hotel Partners who have also endorsed the letter:

DOC 6

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 08 October 2020 11:17

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Closing querie [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED]

We are a licensed premise but also a bowling alley and I just wanted to further clarify on the latest announcements made yesterday. Mrs Sturgeon suggests bowling alleys to close from Saturday 10th October – does that mean we can remain open Friday night until 10pm but we stop serving alcohol at 6pm?

A reply would be greatly appreciated as we are unsure at the moment.

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]