

## DOC 1

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 21 October 2020 01:20

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism <[CabSecRET@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecRET@gov.scot)>;  
[Fergus.Ewing.MSP@parliament.scot](mailto:Fergus.Ewing.MSP@parliament.scot)

**Cc:** [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Hospitality Businesses in your constituency - Please Help

Dear Mr Ewing,

I am writing to you today to appeal for your help.

My small businesses in your constituency are wet led bars & pubs (which mainly sell drink) and employ 34 staff plus (in normal times) dozens of Highlands based Scottish traditional musicians.

However both my businesses and those jobs are now at risk.

Under the new Coronavirus restrictions in force since the 9th of October my wet led bars & pubs cannot trade viably, so along with almost all wet led pubs in Scotland, and around 24 other pubs in Inverness city centre alone, we have had to **close**.

The Scottish Government has only technically ordered closure for pubs in the Central Belt, so although we have in effect been forced to close by these restrictions, if we do receive a discretionary grant it is capped at 50% of the Central Belt grants.

We are also ineligible for the new furlough scheme support in November, and we are ineligible for the thousands of pounds of additional support from suppliers such as landlords, SKY, BT Sport, etc, that are also only available to pubs in the Central Belt who were technically ordered to close.

The help we need from you is simple.

Either allow us to trade viably (selling alcohol indoors, with background music, and without a 10pm curfew) so that we can continue employing our staff and at least breaking even, or order us to close so that we may fully access the desperately needed lifelines of full support and place our staff on the new furlough scheme hence avoiding significant redundancies.

Many wet led businesses across all non-affected health board regions outwith the Central Belt will likely not survive the current restrictions without additional support given they simply cannot afford to open the doors selling only cans of soft drinks and packets of crisps. One of our colleagues has reported trying it, and his entire takings for a 10 hour day of opening were just £3.80.

Most wet led pubs do not even have a commercial kitchen, so diversification into food sales is impossible, and the majority do not have a licensed beer garden so continued sales of alcohol is impossible.

Around 1000 similar hospitality businesses have already been effectively forced to close across Scotland in areas outwith the Central Belt, but they will not get the same level of support as counterparts within the Central Belt who are ordered to close by the Scottish Government.

Our appeal is a simple one.

Both for the current period of restrictions since the 9th of October, and for the impending tiered restrictions to be implemented in the coming weeks.

Please end the Postcode Lottery for Support and equally support **ALL** pubs forced to close across Scotland - whether that forced closure be by government decree or the economic reality forced on us by government restrictions.

Failing to do so risks the jobs, livelihoods and mental health of all involved.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

Director

[REDACTED]-Inverness)

## DOC 2

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

From: Neil A (Alex), MSP <[Alex.Neil.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Alex.Neil.msp@parliament.scot)>

Sent: 22 October 2020 10:56

To: Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work and Culture

<[CabSecEFWC@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecEFWC@gov.scot)>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Message from Scottish Parliament website

Importance: High

Dear Fiona

Please find below a self-explanatory e mail from my constituent [REDACTED] regarding the newly announced grants for businesses

Can you please urgently advise regarding her queries about her eligibility for the new grant scheme, including the criteria for applying, details of how to apply, etc?

I look forward to hearing from you

Yours sincerely

Alex Neil MSP

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

From: [noreply@parliament.scot](mailto:noreply@parliament.scot) <[noreply@parliament.scot](mailto:noreply@parliament.scot)>

Sent: 21 October 2020 19:36

To: Neil A (Alex), MSP <[Alex.Neil.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Alex.Neil.msp@parliament.scot)>

Subject: Message from Scottish Parliament website

name:

[REDACTED]

address:

[REDACTED]

Airdrie

postcode:

[REDACTED]

email:

[REDACTED]

telephone:

[REDACTED]

message:

Dear Sir

I am looking for some clarification on the new Business Grants for businesses closed due to restrictions I have a Niteclub in Airdrie and have been closed since March I contacted north lanarkshire council and have been advised that I'm not eligible for new grant as I've never been open since March How can this be right ? Surely the Scottish Government must include businesses like mine and it just doesn't add up that I'm not entitled to any help but pubs that have been trading again for 3 months are ? I am asking for your assistance in this terrible situation I find myself in Thanking you in advance

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The Scottish Parliament: Making a positive difference to the lives of the people of Scotland Pàrlamaid na h-Alba: A' toirt deagh bhuaidh air beatha sluagh na h-Alba

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### Doc 3

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 21 October 2020 17:52

**To:** Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>

**Subject:** Staff support for forced restaurant closure

My team in both our restaurants have 70% of the team that do not qualify for furlough as started after the deadline to register. What support is available to help them with their wages during the forced closure of their workplaces??

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED]

## Doc 4

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 21 October 2020 12:34

**To:** Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>

**Subject:**

Hi

I am contacting you today seeking help. I am a licensed trade stocktaker and when the pubs and bars closed my income went to zero. I was glad to hear that the Scottish government were going to provide financial help as I have a family of 6. I went onto the internet yesterday to apply only to find I cant as I don't pay business rates. To say I am worried is an understatement. I received the two payments previously from the English government. Can you please provide me with some help with this as its nearly two weeks since I have been paid. Surely if the pubs and bars close and this severely impacts my income I should be entitled to some financial help that is available.

I can be contacted on [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]