

**Request** – “A copy of correspondence between ministers, civil servants and any other parties related to decisions taken to not requiring cattery and kennel businesses to close during the pandemic.

A copy of correspondence between ministers, civil servants and any other parties related to financial support for cattery and kennel businesses during the pandemic.”

Information below relates to correspondence between ministers, civil servants and any other parties related to financial support for cattery and kennel businesses during the pandemic.

1. **From:** {information redacted}  
**Sent:** 15 December 2020 09:47  
**To:** {information redacted}  
**Subject:** RE: PQ S5W-33874 - support for catteries & kennels

Hello {information redacted}

Thanks for your e-mail.

{information redacted}

Not much more I can offer I'm afraid, but happy to discuss if that would help.

Regards.

{information redacted}  
{information redacted} | Animal Welfare Team | Animal Health & Welfare Division | The Scottish Government  
Tel: {information redacted} | E-mail: {information redacted}



<https://www.buyapuppysafely.org/>

**PLEASE NOTE THAT I AM CURRENTLY WORKING FROM HOME MON – FRI DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK**

**From:** {information redacted}  
**Sent:** 14 December 2020 17:18  
**To:** {information redacted}  
**Subject:** FW: PQ S5W-33874 - support for catteries & kennels

Hi {information redacted}

I'm dealing with this PQ below which is about business support to catteries and kennels. you will see from the exchanges below that SPADS have made a reference to {information redacted} difficulties. I've found some media around that in August but wondered if, from an animal welfare perspective, you had anything on this or catteries/kennels more generally that would be helpful for the background?

Unfortunately this is due with private office tomorrow (Tuesday) so apologies for the short turnaround.

Thanks.

**{information redacted}**  
COVID-Business Support Briefing and Operations  
Scottish Government  
Tel: **{information redacted}**

**From:** **{information redacted}**  
**Sent:** 14 December 2020 13:15  
**To:** **{information redacted}**  
**Subject:** RE: PQ S5W-33874 - Alison Johnstone - draft for clearance - business support

Hi **{information redacted}**

**{information redacted}** is off today but back tomorrow. Looks okay to me though – just a tiny addition below. Are we aware of unsuccessful bids from cattery/kennel businesses in the Lothian region? If so, might be worth including in the background note. I recall seeing that **{information redacted}** were considering redundancies and launched an appeal a wee while ago so things like that might also be worth noting. In the background note, can we include whether the related similar question asked by Alison Johnstone has been answered or when it's due to be answered please?

Thanks,

**{information redacted}**

*Please note Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot) for information.*

**From:** **{information redacted}**  
**Sent:** 14 December 2020 12:54  
**To:** **{information redacted}**  
**Subject:** PQ S5W-33874 - Alison Johnstone - draft for clearance - business support

Hi **{information redacted}**

Please find attached, and below, a proposed response to written PQ from Alison Johnstone . Appreciate if you could confirm you are content with the draft answer. it is due with Private Office tomorrow (14<sup>th</sup>) Thanks

S5W-33874

To ask the Scottish Government what COVID-19-related business support is available to cattery and kennel businesses, in light of reports that some have been advised that their business does not fall into a category where such support is available.

Draft answer

We recognise the economic impact that **the necessary** restrictions are having on businesses of all kinds across Scotland. Through the £30 million Discretionary Fund we are empowering local authorities to support businesses and self employed people in their area who require additional financial support, including supply chain businesses impacted by restrictions.

This fund is specifically designed to target businesses who have not received direct financial support through other Scottish Government schemes, and recognises the insight that councils have on the business community in their area and where funding would be most effectively deployed in supporting local economies.

Many thanks

**{information redacted}**  
COVID-Business Support Briefing and Operations  
Scottish Government  
Tel: **{information redacted}**

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2. **From:** Brown J (Joe)  
**Sent:** 27 January 2021 22:47  
**To:** **{Information redacted}**  
**Subject:** RE: Kennel & Cattery Businesses

**{Information redacted}**

Sorry, the MSPs or the business owners (and if so, are they all from your LA?)

**JOE BROWN**

Strategic Engagement, Coordination and COVID-19 Business Support  
*Directorate for Economic Development*  
Scottish Government  
3rd Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay  
Glasgow, G2 8LU

**From:** **{Information redacted}**  
**Sent:** 27 January 2021 21:47  
**To:** Brown J (Joe) ; **{Information redacted}**  
**Subject:** Kennel & Cattery Businesses

Hi Joe/**{Information redacted}**

I've been receiving a lot of Elected Member enquiries from Dog Kennel and Cattery Businesses who we've explained are ineligible for the Framework and that they are likely to receive support via our or other Council's Discretionary Funds. However, they are still not satisfied and are seeking ongoing financial support equivalent to the Framework.

They have already contacted their MSP [Jamie Hepburn] who referred them back to me and also Kate Forbes who had not replied when I spoke to them earlier this week. They are seeking anyone to speak to in Government as they have nowhere else to turn, have put all their life savings and pension into their business as they have to remain open. They have also been trying to bring other such businesses together in the absence of any Scottish Kennel/Cattery Association to try and raise their voice as an industry.

Is there anyone in SG who would be able to speak with them?

Many Thanks

**{Information redacted}**

**{Information redacted}**

North Lanarkshire Council

Mob: **{Information redacted}**

Email: **{Information redacted}** LinkedIn: **{Information redacted}**

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3. **From: {information redacted}**

**Sent:** 04 February 2021 23:03

**To:** Brown J (Joe) <[Joe.Brown@gov.scot](mailto:Joe.Brown@gov.scot)>; **{information redacted}**

**Subject:** Dog Kennels/Catteries

Evening **{information redacted}**

Further to the dog kennel/cattery business I mentioned earlier this week, please find attached a short survey they'd undertaken themselves in the absence of any formal industry association in Scotland. They are now working with other businesses to start a campaign to raise public awareness of the matter and, to that end, they have been conducting the attached survey which highlights their industry's predicament. It shows that 79% of kennels have lost more than 75% of their business and that around 34% have lost 95% of their business. They may be eligible for our Discretionary Fund but the level of funding we could award will not make a substantive difference against the impact their business has experienced.

Separately, they also raised that the security for the COP26 UN Climate Change conference, scheduled for October, is dependent upon Scottish Kennels being able to accommodate hundreds of police dogs from all over the UK. They believe it should be of concern that, without help, many of those businesses are likely to fail and, consequently, be unable to assist in this important event. It is also worth noting that a very high proportion of kennel owners are now seeking alternative employment and that whilst 8% of kennels have now closed their businesses for good, many more will follow. This will lead to a crisis in pet care when people try to return to work and travel. Pets will be dumped or placed in unregulated, unscrupulous care - where the operators will be free to pursue a "quick buck" free from the heavy overheads, insurance and staff costs of running a licensed care facility.

Appreciate you're all under pressure from a variety of other industries so you are able to share these findings as you see fit.

Best,

**{information redacted}**

North Lanarkshire Council

Mob: **{information redacted}**

Email: **{information redacted}** LinkedIn: **{information redacted}**

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Has your businesses been impacted by Covid-19? Find out what help is available by visiting [Covid-19: Guidance for businesses](#)



4. From: {information redacted}  
Sent: 06 May 2021 15:34  
To: {information redacted}  
Cc: News Desk <[Newsdesk@gov.scot](mailto:Newsdesk@gov.scot)>; Communications Economy <[CommunicationsEconomy@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsEconomy@gov.scot)>; {information redacted}

**Subject:** RE: FOR POLICY VIEW - cattery complaint - Dunfermline Press

Hi {information redacted}

I've made some small tweaks to the line below and added a link to the most recent published figures.

Thanks,  
{information redacted}

Since the start of the pandemic more than £3 billion has been allocated to support businesses across Scotland. [Latest figures](#) on funding paid to businesses. The Strategic Framework Business Fund provided grants to businesses that were required to close by law or to significantly change their operation due to Covid-19 restrictions from 2 November 2020: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Strategic Framework Business Fund - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#) In addition, the £120 million Local Authority Discretionary Fund empowered local authorities to direct funding to specific groups or sectors within their areas. The use of this funding, provided by the Scottish Government, is entirely at the discretion of local authorities based on the specific needs of their local economies. We are unable to comment on individual cases.

**From:** {information redacted}  
**Sent:** 06 May 2021 15:18

**To:** {information redacted}  
**Cc:** News Desk <[Newsdesk@gov.scot](mailto:Newsdesk@gov.scot)>; Communications Economy <[CommunicationsEconomy@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsEconomy@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** FOR POLICY VIEW - cattery complaint - Dunfermline Press

Hello all, we've received an inquiry from the Dunfermline Press ( see below) about a cattery raising concerns over the level of Coronavirus support it has received. It wasn't forced to close so probably falls into the same bracket as recent inquiries we've received in relation to riding schools and kennels. I've devised the following line based on the responses we provided previously. This is from Feb, so grateful if someone can tell me if figs still accurate?

The deadline is Monday, but keen to issue today if this approach is agreeable. Is policy content for this to go to SPADs?

Many thanks {information redacted}

RESPONSE

We are now in the pre-election period and as such the government news service is effectively suspended. (Further information can be found here).  
You may be interested in the following information:

Since the start of the pandemic more than £3 billion has been allocated to support businesses across Scotland. The Strategic Framework Business Fund provides monthly grants for

businesses required by law to close or to significantly modify their operations. In addition, the £120 million local authority discretionary fund is empowering local authorities to direct funding to specific groups or sectors within their areas. The use of this funding, provided by the Scottish Government, is entirely at the discretion of local authorities based on the specific needs of their local economies.

We are unable to comment on individual cases.

**From:** {information redacted}

**Sent:** 06 May 2021 13:01

**To:** {information redacted}

**Cc:** News Desk <[Newsdesk@gov.scot](mailto:Newsdesk@gov.scot)>; {information redacted}

**Subject:** media query - business support grants - cattery complaint - Dunfermline Press - deadline Monday

Hi {information redacted}, can you take a look at this one, pls. Deadline is Monday.

**From:** {information redacted}

**Sent:** 06 May 2021 12:53

**To:** {information redacted}

**Subject:** cattery complaint

Hi {information redacted}

Thanks for your time on the phone just then. As explained, I am just hoping to get a response for a story we are doing. Basically, we have spoken to the owner of a local cattery, {information redacted}, who has {information redacted} in {information redacted}

.  
She has called on the Scottish Government to do more after she was left without any consistent funding during the pandemic. Her business was not forced to close its doors however she said kennels and catteries were left "to fend for themselves" as they had no customers as no-one was allowed to travel. She has been in contact with the Scottish Government and lodged an official complaint at {information redacted} and says the boarding industry has been pushed to the side.

She wants proper funding like other businesses have had and says this has not been available to them. She said local government has helped and she did receive one discretionary grant from the council but nothing else and says the effects of the lockdown are likely to linger long after the restrictions have been lifted fully in the coming months.

I am just hoping to get a response if at all possible.

I am working from home so am on {information redacted} if you need me. I would be hoping to get something by the end of Monday if possible.

Thanks again,

{information redacted}

Reporter

Dunfermline Press

Newsquest Media Group

Tel: {information redacted}

Email: {information redacted}

5. **From:** Rollison R (Richard)  
**Sent:** 09 February 2021 13:55

**To:** {information redacted}  
**Cc:** Brown J (Joe) [Joe.Brown@gov.scot](mailto:Joe.Brown@gov.scot) {information redacted}  
**Subject:** RE: discretionary fund

Thanks {information redacted}

Ms Forbes will pick up with Cllr Macgregor this pm – we are happy for you to flag this to Leaders meeting but please emphasise that it is not to be made public – though it will be v. soon.

As you'll be aware there are a wide range of businesses in local and national press and no doubt contacting their respective Councils who are ineligible for other funds – without producing a big long list I think it would be helpful if both SG and local gov could jointly signal that these are the types of businesses the Discretionary Fund is aimed at. I think that broadly falls in to 3 groups – (i) businesses who are allowed to stay open but for whom there is really very limited trade because of wider restrictions (eg (e.g. pet shops, hardware stores, some food and drink shops, bureaux de change, dog groomers, kennels, catteries etc) (ii) businesses, especially those without premises, who are not picked up by other schemes (ii) supply chains, especially to hospitality and tourism.

My sense is that many of the Discretionary Funds cover these but that there might be a gap in (i) especially.

We don't want to slow things down in terms of Councils having to go back through Committee processes but we'd be keen that Councils take stock of applications to date and whether they should change criteria now that more funding is available.

Hope that helps for now.

Please get in touch if it would be helpful to discuss.

Richard

Richard Rollison  
Deputy Director  
Directorate for Economic Development  
Scottish Government  
{information redacted}



**From:** {information redacted}  
**Sent:** 09 February 2021 13:34  
**To:** Rollison R (Richard) ; {information redacted}  
**Cc:** Brown J (Joe) ; {information redacted}  
**Subject:** RE: discretionary fund

Hi Richard,

Thank you for letting us know about the additional £60m for the Discretionary Fund. This is clearly a welcome increase and should allow for LAs to use their schemes to support a wider range of businesses locally.

As you might imagine we are keen to inform our LAs of this as soon as possible and we have alerted our Spokesperson, Cllr Gail Macgregor, given she has a call with Ms Forbes this afternoon (albeit primarily on Scottish Budget).

We have a Special Leaders meeting tomorrow and would like to mention this, along with the Settlement & Distribution Group which precedes the Leaders meeting (and is considering the distribution of the previously advised increase of £30m to the discretionary fund). Can you advise if the Scottish Government is comfortable with us doing this? Happy to also pick up on supporting any messaging you may be wishing to put out.

Thanks

{information redacted}

{information redacted}

Policy Manager

T: {information redacted}

**From:** [Richard.Rollison@gov.scot](mailto:Richard.Rollison@gov.scot) <[Richard.Rollison@gov.scot](mailto:Richard.Rollison@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** 08 February 2021 12:42

**To:** {information redacted}

**Cc:** [Joe.Brown@gov.scot](mailto:Joe.Brown@gov.scot)

**Subject:** RE: discretionary fund

{information redacted}

Ministers have agreed to allocate a further £60m to the Discretionary Fund – i.e £120m total. In doing that, whilst we may top-up existing schemes we do not intend to create any further new schemes in 2020-21 FY so LAs should be confident that they are not going to award funding to a business under the Discretionary Fund which might then be eligible for funding under some new scheme a few weeks later.

This additional funding for the Discretionary Fund should be treated as confidential. It would be helpful to discuss how we work together on making this public.

Richard

**From:** {information redacted}

**Sent:** 08 February 2021 12:18

**To:** {information redacted}

**Cc:** Brown J (Joe) <[Joe.Brown@gov.scot](mailto:Joe.Brown@gov.scot)>; Rollison R (Richard) <[Richard.Rollison@gov.scot](mailto:Richard.Rollison@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** RE: discretionary fund



Hi {information redacted},

SDG paper is attached which sets everything out.

{information redacted} mentioned possible additional funding on top of the £30m – would be good to get that clarified asap, so we can mention it to SDG.

Thanks

{information redacted}

{information redacted}

Policy Manager

T: {information redacted}

**From:** {information redacted}

**Sent:** 08 February 2021 12:08

**To:** {information redacted}

**Cc:** [Joe.Brown@gov.scot](mailto:Joe.Brown@gov.scot); [Richard.Rollison@gov.scot](mailto:Richard.Rollison@gov.scot)

**Subject:** discretionary fund

{information redacted}

Discretionary fund came up on today's call, and I mentioned likely further increases. With a paper going to Leaders this week, you indicated you would discuss with {information redacted} also securing agreement of the distribution methodology for further increases.

in the meantime, would you be able to share with us informally the proposed allocations by local authority for the additional £30m announced previously. this would help our finance colleagues and also enable us to start working on revised grant award letters.

Regards

{information redacted}

{information redacted}

Strategic Engagement, Coordination and COVID-19 Business Support  
Scottish Government

Tel: {information redacted}

**6.** Local Government Finance Circular N05/2020 [Local Governance & Reform Analytical Division dot \(www.gov.scot\)](#) which was published in May 2020 and was superseded by Finance circular 08/2020 [Local government finance circular 8/2020: COVID-19 grant funding schemes \(as amended\) - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

7. **From:** {information redacted}  
**Sent:** 30 March 2020 14:53  
**To:** Brown J (Joe) <[Joe.Brown@gov.scot](mailto:Joe.Brown@gov.scot)>; {information redacted}  
**Cc:** {information redacted} Economy Covid-19 Hub <[BESTCovidHub@gov.scot](mailto:BESTCovidHub@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** RE: Small business Grant schemes

Hi folks,

I am part of the team in the Department for Economy in Northern Ireland seeking to get the N Ireland £25k scheme up and running. Would you be available today for a call with me. There are a couple of common issues that we have encountered which we would welcome your perspective on.

These are

- On Retail - any types that you have considered ruling out of scope?
- Any thoughts on how to deal with franchises ?
- We currently are planning on a max of one grant per business. What is the position in Scotland?

Best Regards

{information redacted}

{information redacted}

Economic Strategy Branch  
Department for the Economy  
Netherleigh  
Massey Avenue  
Belfast, BT4 2JP  
Tel {information redacted}  
Mob: {information redacted}  
TextRelay: {information redacted}  
Web: [www.economy-ni.gov.uk](http://www.economy-ni.gov.uk)

**From:** {information redacted}

**Sent:** 30 March 2020 15:48

**To:** {information redacted}

**Cc:** {information redacted}

Economy Covid-19 Hub <[BESTCovidHub@gov.scot](mailto:BESTCovidHub@gov.scot)>; {information redacted}>

**Subject:** RE: Small business Grant schemes

{information redacted},

We are currently offering a one-off grant per ratepayer (i.e. one per business), but are coming under significant pressure to do more as England offers one per property. Interesting that you are thinking of doing the same. I'd be grateful if you could keep myself and my colleague {information redacted} updated if that position changes.

On retail, here is the list of our eligible properties for the £25k grant – councils have discretion to decide if a property is similar enough to the below or not to qualify. We will be publishing our guidance later today or tomorrow.

**NOTE – list referred to above is a duplicate of the table supplied at page xx**

**8. From:** {information redacted}  
**Sent:** 03 December 2020 10:50  
**To:** {information redacted}  
**Cc:** {information redacted}  
**Subject:** RE: issues log - updated version attached

Hi {information redacted}

Please find attached issues log returned to you. On some issues raised on the call yesterday and I have also tried to clarify the previous text, and where updated that is marked in the date box.

The majority of issues are now covered and only a small number of the newer issues subject to further clarification.

Regards

{information redacted}  
{information redacted} COVID-Business Support Briefing and Operations  
Scottish Government

Tel: {information redacted}

**From:** {information redacted}  
**Sent:** 01 December 2020 11:51  
**To:** {information redacted}  
**Cc:** {information redacted}  
**Subject:** RE: issues log - updated version attached

Hi {information redacted},

Updated issues log attached with this email. I've also forwarded on further information around beauty / aesthetic businesses to you this morning as part of an outstanding issue, and Renfrewshire Council are seeking guidance on the issue they raised.

Grateful for response on the issues included as soon as possible, and can pick up on the call shortly.

Many thanks,

{information redacted}

{information redacted} | Customer Service & Partnership Manager | Business Gateway National Unit

COSLA | Verity House | [19 Haymarket Yards | Edinburgh | EH12 5BH](#)

Mob: {information redacted} | Email: {information redacted}

LinkedIn: {information redacted}

Eligibility, Application & Guidance			
Issue	Description of issue & date raised	Guidance	Updated
{information redacted}	{information redacted}	{information redacted}	{information redacted}
1. Pet accommodation eligibility	Boarding kennels, catteries, other pet accommodation – are they eligible for support as accommodation?	SFBF is specifically targeted at business required to close by law, and those required by law to modify their operations. Kennels and Catteries are not listed under eligibility within the regulations or table.	30/11

{information redacted}



9.

4<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Cabinet Secretary for Finance

## **COVID BUSINESS SUPPORT: 2021-22 OPTIONS**

### **Purpose**

5. This minute provides initial advice on options for COVID-19 Business Support funding for 2021-22, linked to publication of the next update of the Strategic Framework, and for the longer term.

### **Priority**

6. **Urgent.**

### **Background and issues**

7. Last week's revised Strategic Framework included a series of business support commitments:

- the Strategic Framework Business Fund (SFBF) will continue beyond 31<sup>st</sup> March in the event we receive requisite consequentials on 3 March from the UKG;
- recognising that there are costs and challenges associated with re-opening, when a local authority area transitions from Level 4, eligible businesses will continue to get the Strategic Framework Business Fund closure payment for the first four week period after they are able to re-open;
- In 2021-22 we will also provide further Local Authority Discretionary funding to enable grant payments to some supply chain and other businesses impacted less directly by COVID restrictions. There may also be merit in considering extending the scope of the discretionary funding to enable discretionary rates relief for RHL supply chain properties.
- By the end of March, when we know what additional funding will be available from UKG, following further discussions with business organisations, we will set out more detail on future business and sector support.

8. This minute provides related background, analysis and advice, structured as follows:

- Annex A sets out updated funding principles, for approval;
- Annex B models three scenarios and associated indicative costs for the SFBF from April to end June 2021;
- {information redacted}
- 

9. A separate paper setting out a package of recovery-focussed interventions was shared by the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair work and Culture on 3rd March.

{information redacted}

10. When we know the full scale of consequentials to be provided by the UK Government that information will underpin decisions on budget setting for SFBF, sector top-ups and the LA Discretionary Fund, the scope to confirm a dedicated budget for recovery, and relevant business support content in the next iteration of the Strategic Framework (due to published on 16<sup>th</sup> March).

{information redacted}

#### LA Discretionary Fund

11. Further advice will follow on the evolution of the Discretionary Fund (LADF), following planned discussion with COSLA/SLAED and separately business organisations. COSLA have agreed to provide an analysis of the regimes introduced by individual local authorities and what is perceived as best practice. Early signals suggest supply chains are receiving awards from some LAs but there is no consistency across Scotland. We therefore need to negotiate a new approach which is, with COSLA agreement, more directive in terms of eligibility, while leaving local authorities responsible for determinations about which applications to accept. Demand is likely to exceed the available resource.

12. Subject to available resource, there may also be merit in expanding or supplementing the LA discretionary funding to enable Councils to award discretionary reliefs under their Community Empowerment Act powers. This could be unrestricted discretion or in light of the feedback above, could involve a degree of direction towards RHL supply chain properties.

13. A key challenge associated with enabling LADF grant payments to supply chain and other businesses impacted less directly by COVID restrictions is that it would generate claims from many more businesses, and we have not yet been able to model the scale of demand. **You allocated £120 million for LADF in the final quarter of 2020-21. There will be an expectation of equivalent levels of support for the first quarter of 2021-22 and beyond**, unless restrictions are lifted at pace and businesses are free to trade moving forward. That different context (and scope for local authority carry forward of any unspent 2020-21 funds) may provide a rationale for a lower or reducing allocation of DF funds, although that would be less robust if you concurrently chose to close down SFBF funding (paragraph 13 and 14).

14. We are also exploring the scope to target specific sectors, such as tourism/accommodation, catteries and kennels etc. which have made representations around being open but not viable and excluded from other funds (and thereby provide a mechanism for both managing costs and directing the decisions of Local Authorities). And we are exploring the merits of incorporating open but not viable on ground of travel restrictions into SFBF (although this requires a significant shift in the core concept of being linked to closure or direct restriction by law). As signalled above decisions on travel restrictions (both international and domestic) will have a significant bearing on the need for and nature of any such changes. Further advice will follow.

{information redacted}

#### **Recommendation**

15. I recommend that you:

{information redacted}

[Information redacted]

4<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Copy List:	For Action	For Comments	For Information		
			Portfolio Interest	Constit Interest	General Awareness
The Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work and Culture Minister for Business, Fair Work and Skills Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism	«text»	«text»	«text»	«text»	«text»

DG Economy  
[information redacted]

«text»



## COVID BUSINESS SUPPORT: 2021-22 OPTIONS

### OVERVIEW

The revised Strategic Framework includes a series of business support commitments:

- the Strategic Framework Business Fund will continue beyond 31st March in the event we receive requisite consequential on 3 March from the UKG;
- recognising that there are costs and challenges associated with re-opening, when a local authority area transitions from Level 4, eligible businesses will continue to get the Strategic Framework Business Fund closure payment for the first four week period after they are able to re-open;
- In 2021-22 we will also provide further Local Authority Discretionary funding to enable grant payments to some supply chain and other businesses impacted less directly by COVID restrictions.
- By the end of March, when we know what additional funding will be available from UKG, following further discussions with business organisations, we will set out more detail on future business and sector support.

Earlier dialogue with business organisations broadly endorsed the following key gaps and challenges:

- Uptake
- Timeframes for current support and recurring need
- Cliff-edges
- Indirect restrictions - including travel, B2B or consumer demand, supply chain etc.
- Non-property businesses
- Resilience/recovery priorities - support for survival' and 'protecting critical assets and resources

{information redacted}

### Previous Principles

1. there is an unequivocal need to introduce further funding to address cash flow shortages among specific business types and sectors. The prospect of a mass vaccination programme initiating in the first half 2021 makes the case for supporting businesses increasingly compelling;
2. any additional support must take account of the specific impact of restrictions on different sectors;
3. any additional business support must build on rather than duplicate what is already available through existing Scottish and UK Government schemes;
4. the support that we provide to businesses must recognise the nuanced impact of restrictions and wider social trends created by the pandemic on local economies;
5. there is a need to strike a balance between the imperative to address businesses' immediate cash-flow challenges against the need to commit spending towards recovery; and
6. that decisions on further financial support must be taken in the context of the significant budgetary pressures facing the Scottish Government

### Suggested redraft

1. Develop financial support mechanisms for businesses that are both simple to understand and simple to administer and can be resurrected should the need arise to extend or reintroduce physical distancing measures at either a local, regional or national level.
2. Recognise that the lifting of physical distancing measures does not mean the end of COVID-19 restrictions acknowledging that certain sectors will continue to experience depressed demand as a result of restrictions and that our funding may need to be adapted to support these sectors.
3. Build on existing Scottish and UK Government schemes to close gaps in support for businesses and the self-employed experiencing financial hardship as a result of COVID-19.
4. Adopt a needs-based approach to provision of financial support to ensure a fair and proportionate allocation of limited funding to businesses that require support
5. Identify and support critical assets in key sectors of the economy that are continuing to experience ongoing uncertainty and financial challenges as a result of COVID-19.
6. Recognise that budgetary constraints mean that we cannot cover all lost income and that financial support must be proportionate to alleviating financial hardship or mitigating fixed costs

## **ANNEX B**

### **COVID BUSINESS SUPPORT: 2021-22 OPTIONS**

#### **SCENARIOS AND ASSOCIATED INDICATIVE COSTS**

##### **SFBF Scenarios**

{information redacted}

**10.**

From: Joe Brown

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021

Cabinet Secretary for Finance

#### **REVIEW OF STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: IMPLICATIONS AND OPTIONS FOR COVID BUSINESS SUPPORT**

##### **Purpose**

1. This minute provides advice on COVID business support policy and the scope for announcements relating to the review of the Strategic Framework.

##### **Priority**

**2. Immediate.**

##### **Summary**

**3.** {information redacted}

5. Recent dialogue with business organisations recognised the need to support sectors that will remain closed and avoid cliff-edges in support, urged SG to find mechanisms to support non-property-based businesses and those impacted by indirect restrictions (notably travel), and stressed the importance, and recognised the potential financial trade-off between, supporting recovery as well as resilience

6. {information redacted}

7. We therefore recommend that you:

- {information redacted}
- 
- announce that we will publish more detailed and comprehensive plans for future business support towards the end of March, when we know what resources will be available from the UK and, to the extent that we can, have a little bit more certainty about the trajectory of the virus.

## Background and Issues

8. In October you endorsed the following principles to guide decisions on business support:

- there is an unequivocal need to introduce further funding to address cash flow shortages among specific business types and sectors;
- any additional support must take account of the specific impact of restrictions on different sectors;
- any additional business support must build on rather than duplicate what is already available through existing Scottish and UK Government schemes;
- the support that we provide to businesses must recognise the nuanced impact of restrictions and wider social trends created by the pandemic on businesses and local economies;
- there is a need to strike a balance between the imperative to address businesses' immediate cash-flow challenges against the need to commit spending towards recovery; and
- that decisions on further financial support must be taken in the context of the significant budgetary pressures facing the Scottish Government.

9. Experience of business support from October onwards, suggest key issues or challenges moving forward are:

- The resources available for COVID business support in 2021-22;
- Ensuring evolution of funding models builds on what works, and steps we have begun to take to move to streamlined, effective and efficient administration delivering timely support
- Gaps and targeting, including: uptake; timeframes for current support and recurring need; cliff-edges in support; supporting business impacted by indirect restrictions, and excluded from SFBF); supporting non-property businesses; and resilience/recovery priorities - support for survival' and 'protecting critical assets and resources.

10. Recent dialogue with business organisations endorsed that assessment. They recognised the need to support sectors that will remain closed and avoid cliff-edges in support, urged SG to find mechanisms to support non-property-based businesses and those impacted by indirect restrictions (notably travel), and stressed the importance of supporting recovery as well as resilience. See annex A for a summary.

a. {information redacted}

b. Earmarking a further £100 million which would be made available to local authorities that choose to revise and expand their Discretionary Fund approach to support businesses that are out with scope of SFBF and impacted by travel restrictions (we may of course be

able to drop this reference to choice if, as expected, all local authorities are supportive); this might best come on stream when we return to Levels and see local authorities transitioning and businesses re-opening; alternatively it could be targeted on kennels and catteries (for example) that are impacted now. This is a significant change so we need time to work through the principles and the practicalities.

**15. {information redacted}**

16. Option 14.g, also carries risks and challenges. As outlined at paragraph 13, there are a range of restrictions on individuals which impact indirectly on businesses. Making payments for travel creates a precedent. Also, as yet, we have no reliable way to identify all the businesses impacted by travel restrictions. We could be clearer on total costs if we restricted to tourism, hospitality and retail (and exclude their supply chains). Whilst some of these businesses have already had access to a funding, there remain some, particularly non-property based businesses in this sector that have found it hard to fit into any of the support categories and there may a stronger case for supporting them. The key policy intent remains to use the Discretionary Fund to make payments to businesses not accessing other support. Another substantive issue is that this would require local authorities to agree to a much more targeted and less discretionary approach.

{information redacted}

### **Handling, presentation and next steps**

22. Given that Finance advice, we believe you should approve the text at Annex A for inclusion in the Framework Review publication, incorporating:

- **{information redacted}**
- announcing that we will set out more detailed and comprehensive plans for future business support in mid to late March, when we know what resources will be available from the UK. (This allows time to work through some of the engagement or resource issues identified above. A key first step would be to arrange a follow up meeting with COSLA on the evolution of the Discretionary Fund but again clearly caveated that this is all dependent on receiving further consequentials).
- Targeted top-ups and the re-rerun and/or merger of current schemes that are time-bound, possible standardising payment levels if resources are constrained)
- Discretionary Fund evolution with current model enhanced by conditional/targeted funding for travel restriction support;
- Longer terms changes (which we expect to emerge from strategic dialogue with COSLA, SOLACE and business bodies) .

### **Recommendation**

**23. I recommend that you approve the approach at paragraph 22 and associated text at Annex B for inclusion in the Framework Review publication.**

**[Information redacted]**

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021

## REVIEW OF STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: IMPLICATIONS AND OPTIONS FOR COVID BUSINESS SUPPORT

### BUSINESS ORGANISATION FEEDBACK: SUMMARY

#### Response to FM statement

- A recognition of the importance of UKG decisions relating to lifting restrictions, including on forward funding;
- The extended timeframe for business restart will exacerbate current and acute issues relating to viability and cash-flow, which underpin growing anxiety and mental health pressures;
- Members view the language on elimination of the virus as a significant strategic shift in policy
- Business aske remains for a route map which outlines sequencing of re-opening and triggers/criteria, and takes account of developments relating to vaccination rollout and testing.
  
- **{information redacted}**
- Future support should recognise that travel restrictions both domestic and international would have a hugely significant and extended impact on business sectors;
- Businesses and sectors are keen to work with Government on criteria for targeted funding;
- SG analysis of sectoral impact should be used to target future business support, and SG should be investing concurrently in support and recovery (which would need a robust evidence-based policy, while recognising that this would likely mean some businesses would not be supported).

{information redacted}

### BUSINESS SUPPORT TEXT FOR REVIEW OF STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK#

#### *Support for Business*

{information redacted}

#### **11. From: [information redacted]**

**Sent:** 02 February 2021 14:21

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Finance <CabSecFinance@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Minister for Business, Fair Work and Skills <MinisterBFWS@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work and Culture <CabSecEFWC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism <CabSecRET@gov.scot>; Covid Business Support <CovidBusinessSupport@gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy <CommunicationsFinance&Economy@gov.scot>; News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>;

**[information redacted]**

**Subject:** Lines to clear: Media enquiries - businesses not eligible support

Hi **[information redacted]**

We've had a few local business support media enquiries – one on a kennel business, one on a dog groomer, and one with calls from the British Association for Shooting and Conservation for targeted support for country sports (emails below for info).

We've updated the general lines below for businesses not covered by national funding schemes with input from policy colleagues/SpAds and I'll flag that it's for LAs to respond on discretionary fund issues.

Is Ms Forbes content to clear the lines below for use today and to be reissued in response to similar enquiries that come in this week for consistency, assuming no policy changes?

One of the papers is seeking a response by 4pm if possible. Thanks

**A Scottish Government spokesperson said:**

“Since the start of the pandemic we have allocated more than £3 billion to support businesses across Scotland. The Strategic Framework Business Fund provides monthly grants for businesses required by law to close or to significantly modify their operations. In addition, our £60 million local authority discretionary fund is empowering local authorities to direct funding to specific groups or sectors within their areas. The use of this funding is entirely at the discretion of local authorities based on the specific needs of their local economies.”

**Background**

Employment support continues to be provided through the UK Government's furlough scheme.

Thanks  
[information redacted]

**1. Kennels enquiry**

We've spoken to the owners of [information redacted] in Cumbernauld, who are saying they are desperate for Government support, but haven't had anything since the initial £10k grant last year.

Their point is that they are being told to stay open as they are an essential business, but nobody needs them at the moment because of the lockdown and travel rules. People working from home means there's no daycare requirement and certainly nobody is going on holiday. They say that plenty of kennels she's spoken are struggling immensely and unless there's intervention many will fail, leading to a long-term problem after the pandemic when pet owners' only option is to leave their pets with unregulated and unexperienced people "looking to exploit the need".

She would like kennel and catteries to be recognised as part of the tourism industry as she says they are vital to it from the point of view of pet owners. There's a petition being signed in favour of that by other kennel owners.

{information redacted}

[information redacted]

From: Richard Rollison  
 Directorate for Economic Development  
 6 February 2021

Cabinet Secretary for Finance

## **BUSINESS SUPPORT FUNDING**

### **Purpose**

16. To provide advice on funding support for the mobile/home based close contact providers (MHBCC); the newly self employed (NSE); and businesses which, to date and except for support from the Local Authority Discretionary Fund, have been ineligible for support from Scottish Government funding programmes.

### **Priority**

17. **Urgent** – information on the schemes for MHBCCP and NSE is due to be published on Monday.

### **Background**

18. The Cabinet Secretary has requested advice around further financial support for businesses to help them through the business impacts of Covid and to support economic recovery. Finance officials have indicated that approximately £100m may be available this financial year and have emphasised the importance of ensuring spend this year.

19. **{Information redacted}** submission of 5 February outlines spend proposals of £25m this financial year to support economic recovery. **{information redacted}**

5. Over the last couple of weeks, we have discussed with you, the balance between:

- (i) providing further and additional financial support to sectors and businesses, such as hospitality and tourism, which have already received funding; and
- (ii) providing funding to those sectors and businesses which, to date, have been ineligible for funding except through the local authority discretionary fund.

6. You have also been clear that you do not wish to create new and additional schemes

### **Funding for Mobile/Home Based Close Contact Providers and the Newly Self-Employed**

7. **{information redacted}**

### **Support for Businesses Ineligible for other SG funding – Local Authority Discretionary Fund**

13. As you are aware, feedback from business organisations and individual businesses has identified a number of areas where current business support provisions and criteria mean that certain businesses are unable to access funding. This is reflected in the wide range of

correspondence and media queries about businesses significantly impacted by Covid but unable to access Scottish Government funding.

14. These include businesses which are not required to close but are suffering a drastic fall in demand as a result of the closures of sectors they supply goods or services into, e.g. laundrettes, bakeries, cleaning contractors, food and drink manufacturers and others supplying the hospitality sector. Some of these businesses are significant in size and can be important both in terms of employment and in sector supply chains. In addition, there are businesses ineligible for funding but suffering a severe negative impact as a direct or indirect result of restrictions, For example:

- Businesses not required to close but which experience significantly reduced demand as a result of wider restrictions - kennels and catteries with no trade because people are unable to travel, money exchanges because there is minimal international travel, car washes, tradespeople and cleaners unable to work in people's homes etc.  
**{information redacted}**

15. These categories cover a wide range of businesses across sectors and there will be significant variances even within sectors – e.g. some local convenience stores may be experiencing a sales increase as spend is not directed elsewhere.

16. Our response to this has been to establish the Local Authority Discretionary Fund. This enables individual local authorities to direct additional financial support to specific groups, sectors or businesses within their local business communities who are experiencing immediate financial challenges as a result of current restrictions and regulation.

17. In doing so it enables local decision making about priority businesses and, whilst eligibility criteria vary across local authorities, the funds primarily capture businesses who may fall outwith the eligibility criteria of other schemes.

18. You provided an initial £30 million of support for the Discretionary Fund in December and increased this to £60m in the Budget.

19. At the time of writing, 18 of 32 local authorities have gone “live” with their Discretionary Fund, and (based on the initial £30m) three of these have already closed due to over-subscription.

20. We have considered whether setting up new, bespoke schemes, rather than the Discretionary Fund, would be a better or more effective way to provide financial support to businesses ineligible for other funding. However, it was felt that the time and resource involved would be prohibitive within the current timescales. It would not be possible to design, agree, launch and spend new funding schemes by year end, and our agency and local authority partners do not have sufficient resource to do so, particularly at pace.

21. We also considered whether funding could be utilised through expanding the conditions of the Strategic Framework Business Fund, especially the Business Restrictions Grant which provides funding of £1,400/2,100 every four weeks to businesses which can remain open but are specifically required to modify their operations by law but which specifically excludes where the demand for products or services has been reduced because of the pandemic. However it would be complicated to cover the range of business types outlined



at paragraph 14 above, some of these are not property/NDR based and expanding the Fund would break the link, which we have been keen to maintain, between eligibility and regulations requiring businesses to close. In addition, given that claims are backdated to the start of the claim period, and that the fund continues on a rolling basis, there would be limited control over cost – and support being expanded now would likely build an expectation of future support going into financial year 2021-22.

22. Given the above, it is our strong view that the Local Authority Discretionary Fund is the most effective mechanism for providing financial support to businesses ineligible for support from other SG funding.

23. It could be argued that £60m is adequate to support the Discretionary Fund and that any additional funding might be better allocated to enhancing other existing provision. However, with 211,675 registered business sites in Scotland support for just 10% (21,000) of these would lead to an average one-off grant of £2,835. Furthermore, with over 350,000 businesses in Scotland there are many more businesses which do not operate from ‘business sites’ (eg cleaners, tradespeople, home based workers etc) so the average grant would be lower.

24. Providing a further £60m to the Discretionary Fund (i.e £120m in total) would significantly extend the scope of local authorities to provide funding to businesses ineligible for other funding – and as a ‘one-off’ grant would not have financial implications in future years.

25. Whilst the fund is by definition discretionary, if further funding were announced it may be possible for the Cabinet Secretary to provide a strong signal of the sort of businesses she would like to see Council’s support and to encourage (some) Councils to be more transparent in how the Fund is allocated.

26. We would, of course, need to agree the expansion and swift delivery of the Discretionary Fund with local authorities/CoSLA. LG Finance Officers are meeting next Wednesday to agree the allocation methodology for the additional £30m that was allocated in the Budget and it would be useful to take a decision on any further funding before that.

### **Finance Considerations**

27. **{information redacted}**

28. The Local Government Discretionary Fund is currently paid as a specific grant to local authorities and it would be complex to include it in the local government settlement. Furthermore, if it was added to the settlement there is no guarantee that it would remain ringfenced for business support. Nonetheless, given the scale of ineligible businesses and that Councils should no longer be assessing applications for SFBB, it should be possible for Councils to process many more applications for Discretionary Funding this financial year.

### **Recommendations**

29. You are asked to:

(a) **{information redacted}**

(b) Agree to commit an of an additional £60 million (i.e £120m total) to the Local Government Discretionary Fund this financial year

Richard Rollison  
Directorate for Economic Development  
6 February 2021

Copy List:	For Action	For Comments	For Information		
			Portfolio Interest	Constit Interest	General Awareness
Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work and Culture			X		
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism			X		
Minister for Business, Fair Work and Skills			X		

**Copy:**  
DG Economy  
COVID-19 Economy Hub  
COVID-19 Business Support  
Director for Economic Development  
{Information redacted}  
Joe Brown  
{Information redacted}

**13. From:** {information redacted}<{information redacted}@fife.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 01 March 2021 10:50  
**To:** {information redacted}<{information redacted}@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Brown J (Joe) <Joe.Brown@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** FW: CATTERIES AND KENNELS - BUSINESS SUPPORT FUNDING

FYI – so I have the info for Fife in terms of catteries and kennels – so it does seem likely all LA’s will capture this ! I do not think this sector is going to go away anytime soon.

p

**From:** {information redacted}  
**Sent:** 01 March 2021 10:01  
**To:** {information redacted} {information redacted}@fife.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** {information redacted} <{information redacted}@fife.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** FW: CATTERIES AND KENNELS - BUSINESS SUPPORT FUNDING

{information redacted}, please find a link to the council website which lists all our licensed animal premises.

<https://online.fifedirect.org.uk/publications/index.cfm?fuseaction=publication.pop&pubid=A28C76F8-E7E1-8AB3-7E29B690CB028C54>

Thanks {information redacted}



\*\*\*\*\*

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**14. From: { information redacted }**

**Sent:** 02 March 2021 13:41

**To:** Rollison R (Richard) <Richard.Rollison@gov.scot>; Brown J (Joe) <Joe.Brown@gov.scot>

**Cc:** { information redacted } <{ information redacted }@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: CATTERIES AND KENNELS - BUSINESS SUPPORT FUNDING

{ information redacted } can you do some digging to see if you can find out whether LAs publish their list of licensed animal boarding houses?

Best wishes,

{ information redacted }  
 { information redacted }  
 COVID-19 Business Support  
 { information redacted }

**From:** Rollison R (Richard) <[Richard.Rollison@gov.scot](mailto:Richard.Rollison@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** 02 March 2021 12:25

**To:** { information redacted } <[information redacted](mailto:{information redacted}@gov.scot)@gov.scot>; Brown J (Joe) <[Joe.Brown@gov.scot](mailto:Joe.Brown@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** { information redacted } <[information redacted](mailto:{information redacted}@gov.scot)@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: CATTERIES AND KENNELS - BUSINESS SUPPORT FUNDING

See next e-mail – is there a less explicit way of doing this as I don't want to raise expectations

**From:** { information redacted } <[information redacted@gov.scot](mailto:information redacted@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** 02 March 2021 12:24  
**To:** Brown J (Joe) <[Joe.Brown@gov.scot](mailto:Joe.Brown@gov.scot)>; Rollison R (Richard) <[Richard.Rollison@gov.scot](mailto:Richard.Rollison@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** { information redacted } <[information redacted@gov.scot](mailto:information redacted@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** FW: CATTERIES AND KENNELS - BUSINESS SUPPORT FUNDING

Hi Joe and Richard,

Would you like us to go out to all LAs and seek information on the number of licensed kennels and catteries, we can build a template and then circulate through the SLAED network asking for returns by the end of the week?

Best wishes,

{ information redacted }

{ information redacted }  
COVID-19 Business Support  
{ information redacted }

## 15.

**From:** {information redacted}  
**Sent:** 08 December 2020 22:46  
**To:** {information redacted} <[information redacted@gov.scot](mailto:information redacted@gov.scot)> {information redacted} <[information redacted@gov.scot](mailto:information redacted@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** {information redacted} <[information redacted@gov.scot](mailto:information redacted@gov.scot)>; {information redacted} <[information redacted@gov.scot](mailto:information redacted@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** RE: MiCsae MR 111876 - kennels eligibility for Discretionary fund

Hi {information redacted},

I think if you put the below in on the discretionary fund then that should help

Through the £30 million Discretionary Fund announced on 17 November we are empowering local authorities to support businesses and self-employed people in their area who require additional financial support, including businesses in the supply chain of sectors significantly impacted by restrictions and regulations. This recognises the insight that councils have on the business community in their area and where funding would be most effectively deployed in supporting local economies. This fund is specifically designed to target businesses who have not received direct financial support through other Scottish Government financial support schemes since October. We have worked closely with local authorities to develop the discretionary fund to ensure that it reaches businesses quickly. Allocations will be transferred across to local authorities this week and I would encourage you keep an eye on East Lothian Council's website to check whether you are eligible when they open applications

Best wishes,

**{information redacted}**

**{information redacted}**

COVID-19 Business Support

**{information redacted}**

**From: {information redacted}**

**Sent:** 08 December 2020 12:22

**To: {information redacted}**

**Cc: {information redacted}**

**Subject:** RE: MiCsae MR 111876 - kennels eligibility for Discretionary fund

Thanks **{information redacted}**.

Drafted response

Thank you for your correspondence of 2 November, regarding the difficulties that your constituents business, Woodend Kennels is facing as a result of the restrictions put in place to try and prevent the spread of Covid-19.

We recognise that this is an extremely difficult time for businesses of all kinds across Scotland, and understand the economic impact that restrictions are having on businesses. With that being said, we want to help keep companies in business and support them, which is why we have put in place a package of package of support worth over £2.3 billion.

The COVID-19 Restrictions Fund offered grant support to businesses very directly impacted by the restrictions which applied between 9 October and 2 November. Hardship grants were available for businesses that were not required to close by the regulations but significantly impacted by the restrictions - such as pubs and restaurants out with the central belt, and some businesses in the hospitality supply chain. There was a finite budget available for this support and to minimise the risk that applications from businesses exceeded the funding available it was targeted at hospitality businesses and some gyms, required by regulations to operate in a restricted way, and producers/wholesale businesses based in Scotland supplying primarily short-life goods or produce to hospitality businesses required by the regulations to close or operate in a restricted way and able to evidence a minimum 25% reduction in turnover during the brake period. This fund closed to applications on 3 November 2020.

We acknowledge that many businesses may be facing difficulty as a result of COVID-19 or as a result of measures designed to inhibit its spread, and recently announced an additional £45 million in funding to local authorities to support businesses impacted by COVID-19. This includes £15 million for newly self-employed people who are not able to access other forms of financial support, and a £30 million discretionary fund to enable local authorities to provide additional support for businesses where they consider that necessary or justified. We are working with local authorities to develop these funds which are not yet open for applications, and further details on eligibility will be announced shortly.

It is important to note that this is not the only form of support for businesses and individuals available. Your constituent may not be aware that the UK Government's Self Employed Income Support (SEISS) grant has been extended for a further six months. It is available to self-employed individuals who were eligible for previous funding under the scheme, although they do not need to have claimed the previous grants. Applicants must declare that they are actively continuing to trade, but are facing reduced demand due to COVID-19 or were previously trading but are temporarily unable to do so due to Coronavirus.

Your constituent may also wish to investigate other forms of support available such as the [Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme \(CBILS\)](#) or the ['Bounce Back' Loan Scheme](#) from the UK Government. Information about the range of business support available can be found at the [Find Business Support website](#) which is updated regularly. You can also get advice by calling the find business support helpline on 0300 303 0660.

I appreciate that your constituent will be eager to learn more about what support is available, and whether they will be able to access it as soon as possible, so I would encourage them to monitor the [Scottish Government website](#) or [Find Business Support website](#) for updates, news, and announcements.

We continue to work with businesses and representative organisations to better understand the challenges facing certain businesses and to investigate how we can best offer help and support. Scottish Ministers fully appreciate how challenging it has been for businesses and within the devolved powers and resources at their disposal are doing everything in their power to help Scotland's business.

## Original Correspondence

We have a Kennels/Cattery business in Humbie.

Since March our business has been virtually destroyed due to the Covid restrictions and we have no bookings for the rest of the year. We have just applied to the East Lothian Council for the current Hardship Grant as Nicola Sturgeon said she would do everything she could to help businesses badly affected by the Covid restrictions. We consider that we are essentially part of the hospitality industry broadly similar to a hotel and if people cannot go on holiday or travel then they don't board their animals. However we have been told that we do not qualify for the grant as Scottish Government guidelines exclude kennels from being eligible for the grant. Could I ask that if you get the chance you could lobby the Scottish Government to extend any future hardship grants to businesses like ours that suffer considerable collateral damage due to the Covid restrictions.

{information redacted}

{information redacted}

**Covid-19 Business Support Team**

**3rd Floor | 5 Atlantic Quay | 150 Broomielaw | Glasgow | G2 8LU**

**Tel:** {information redacted}

**Mob:** {information redacted}

**From:** {information redacted} <[information redacted@gov.scot](mailto:{information redacted}@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** 08 December 2020 12:11

**To:** {information redacted} <[information redacted@gov.scot](mailto:{information redacted}@gov.scot)> {information redacted} <[information redacted@gov.scot](mailto:{information redacted}@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** {information redacted} <[information redacted@gov.scot](mailto:{information redacted}@gov.scot)>; {information redacted} <[information redacted@gov.scot](mailto:{information redacted}@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** MiCsae MR 111876 - kennels eligibility for Discretionary fund

Hi {information redacted},

Can you send the correspondence across to me and I will add in some lines?

Best wishes,

{information redacted}

{information redacted}  
COVID-19 Business Support  
{information redacted}

**From:** {information redacted} < [{information redacted}@gov.scot](mailto:{information redacted}@gov.scot) >  
**Sent:** 08 December 2020 10:27  
**To:** {information redacted} < [{information redacted}@gov.scot](mailto:{information redacted}@gov.scot) > {information redacted} < [{information redacted}@gov.scot](mailto:{information redacted}@gov.scot) >  
**Cc:** {information redacted} < [{information redacted}@gov.scot](mailto:{information redacted}@gov.scot) >; {information redacted} < [{information redacted}@gov.scot](mailto:{information redacted}@gov.scot) >  
**Subject:** MiCsaе MR 111876 - kennels eligibility for Discretionary fund

Hi All

I have just received a previous MR back from Cab Sec office regarding support for kennels. She is looking for us to contact COSLA to see if the discretionary fund could include kennels etc?

{information redacted}  
{information redacted}  
**Covid-19 Business Support Team**

**3rd Floor | 5 Atlantic Quay | 150 Broomielaw | Glasgow | G2 8LU**  
**Tel:** {information redacted}  
**Mob:** {information redacted}