

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 December 2021 12:42
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Subject: Face masks in hairdressers

Dear Nicola

Please can you bring back face coverings for children over 5 . We are working really closely to peoples faces the adults and over 12s wear them , the smaller children don't. We. Feel very vulnerable as we are so close we felt safer and protected when everyone wore them. Please bring this back.

Regards [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone



Response-20210026
0937.pdf

Hi there,

I was reading the Coronavirus (COVID-19): Close Contact Services page and it was last updated on the August 2021. Just wondering if this is still up to date. Can you confirm this or give me some advice on what we can do? I work in a Spa, and we are still doing Facials and Facial waxing. Is it still ok to do them or would recommend that we stop doing them?

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Response-20210026
5677.pdf

This is a begging letter something I never thought I would have to do.
If I can explain.

My industry hair & beauty like many other industries who are inadvertently part of the supply chain for the bars, restaurants, night clubs & wedding industry, have yet again been discarded.

Your over zealous wording and scaremongering of the general public has yet again thrown my business and many of my fellow businesses into the lions den. Or for a better description into the Clyde without a paddle or simply nothing to keep us afloat.

Like the hospitality industry my business is hair & beauty has suffered just as much even more in some cases, yet we are totally forgotten about. The amount of cancellations mean I definitely need to pay staff off my diary has been full since mid November but as of your warnings to stay at home this week has been disastrous and next week is half empty cancellations are daily yet nothing is done to help my business. Furlough doesn't help my business, the running costs were never covered by the pittance of grants last year. I cashed in my pension £28k and put it into my business to keep it afloat and I'm still trying but this time I have nothing to fall back on I will not be able to pay my bank loan or rent or all the other overheads so where does that leave myself and the many many small businesses??? In the same boat We stocked up for the busy Xmas period spending extra money so that will now sit in a shelf for months, and although we do bring in extra money at Xmas that is always put aside for the quiet months of Jan & Feb. Now with your warnings "stay at home" that won't happen and I will not survive to see Jan or Feb.

I am in the process of giving everyone notice, my staff, landlord, electricity company, water company, computer company, waste collection company, the list goes on but after years of hard work my business has gone all because you decide to scare us again.

I know health is important I have suffered really badly with mental health and I have arthritis awaiting both knee replacement not to mention cancer and covid, yet I worked so very hard to run a good business and provide employment for many ppl. The knock on effect is I will have no income so I won't be able to pay my mortgage, or any debts I have. benefits won't do that so after all these years I will lose my home. I have 2 yrs left to pay off my mortgage but it will be taken from me if I can't pay.

You and your colleagues get paid pandemic or not. I believe if you had your own business you would not make these flippant remarks and you would certainly not lock us down again.

I hate when I hear you say you understand because you don't unless you're in my shoes how could you possibly understand.

My industry is made up of many many small businesses and we have no loud voices when it comes to lobbying you, we are not the oil industry or farmers or ASDA Tesco etc. we have no one fighting our corner.

We have all done you asked us to do. I spent a lot of money on PPE clothing, equipment, screens, disposable towels etc etc and we have got our jabs and boosters and we are doing our very best with no extra financial help.

I personally have had little or no wages some weeks so I can cover staff wages and bills etc, the only thing that was keeping my doors open was the busy Xmas period. Now you have wiped that out with no care at all. No thought was put into what you were saying yet the consequences are devastating.

The last 2 years have been hell in many ways so I'm pleading, begging Do Not Lock us down again. Grants do not cover business outgoing we need to generate our own income. We can slim line our business but a lock down will close many many small salons. Furlough only helps staff not business but I know myself and other salon owners will close immediately if you lock us down. We won't even apply for furlough coz I won't have the money to pay the tax & national insurance.

You must Trust us to be responsible. stop treating us like children. Give us the respect we so deserve. The majority of us are all protected. Let us live with this, it's here forever we just cannot shut up shop every time you decide. This is a different variant and we have a level of protection now so please please let us live.

This country will be on its knees omg if we were independent right now where would we be because you have no money !!!

the benefit system will treble or more with claimants, I for one will be part of that if you declare a lock down. Never since I was 16 have I claimed benefits. I am a hard worker just like many Scott's

Finally you playing politics with our lives is not acceptable. Asking boris for money for furlough and for business is just a joke, all 4 nations need help not just Scotland but it's not rocket science there is no money. The money given out previous was not enough so finally please please please do not lock us down. No amount of furlough or grants will cover the many business outgoings nor will it help to pay our already existing debts from the first lockdowns.

PLEASE LISTEN TO MY PLEE MY CRY FOR HELP

Your sincerely

[REDACTED]



Response-20210026
6943.pdf

Dear First Minister,

I am emailing you as a small business owner in Scotland. I have a small salon in Whitburn, West Lothian. Due to the new strain and government advising party nights to be cancelled this has has a massive impact on my business and I imagine many others.

We are all self employed in the salon and just getting back on our feet after lockdown, we were looking forward to the Christmas party rush, however due to nights out being cancelled due to government advice we have seen fully booked diaries decimated and we are effectively making a third of our expected salary a month before Christmas. We still have bills to pay (both personal and business) and this has put us in a horrible situation, where we are all full of worry on how we are going to pay these bills without clients.

Will there be any business or self employed help put in place to help people like us? Especially if you are considering increasing the covid related restrictions or giving advice that impacts small businesses like ours.

I feel all the attention goes on to pubs and restaurants when it comes to covid impacts but other small businesses like ours particularly in the beauty industry get forgotten.

Thank you for your time.

[REDACTED]



Response-20210026
4413.pdf

I will continue to send this letter

Dear Nicola

I first and foremost hope that you yourself read this email, I would like to express my disappointment on the way you are handling this covid crisis or tsunami as you like to put it. As much as I understand that the first two lock downs were needed due to the fact, we had not received the vaccines I simply cannot understand the constant need to use scaremongering tactics, this Christmas was meant to be seen as bumper Christmas for us all to make up for the dreadful time we all had the last almost 2 years. Hospitality is almost on its knees which has a knock-on effect on other industries such as mine in the beauty industry you're constant need to remind everyone of the tsunami of infections and people cancelling Christmas parties' results in cancellations for us I also think that your wording is abhorrent and needs to be re thought, have you actually thought about how this affects peoples mental health clearly not as if you did you would maybe re think how you spoke. I think it's time you let people make up their own minds we are all sick of living under these restrictions now, most of us have followed the rules for the last 2 years to what affect it didn't stop me losing two jobs which I got no support for through no fault of my own, I have since set up my own business as i stupidly trusted the Scottish government thinking we wouldn't be living in fear of yet another lockdown, I can't tell you the impact this has had on my mental health along with many others. The Scottish Governments constant mind games with the UK Government is ruining Scotland you seem to like to have one over Boris but what you seem to fail to see is what impact this is having on people Livley hood. Simply Ms Sturgeon you cannot keep playing with people's lively hood especially if you take it upon yourself to enforce another lockdown any business that have just started in the last 6 months simply will not survive there is no funding for the likes of us but I guess we are just collateral damage. Are we going to be living with the threat of this every year or are we going to be allowed to get on with our lives and live with this virus and this is now not about protecting the NHS the UK and Scottish Government are at fault here by simply not funding this area and letting it fall to its knees so that every winter we will have this threat to protect the NHS when both governments should have putting money in and not wasting money on Tram projects which has run into the billions.

I do hope you will take on board what I have tried to get across to you but I fear you won't, you have not really been known for listening to your voters and instead will probably decide to lock us down after Christmas not matter what the outcome is for people jobs wise or mental health wise but for this I will tell you "No free man shall be seized, imprisoned, dispossessed, outlawed, exiled or ruined in any way nor in any way proceeded against" Listen to your people not the so called scientist we want our live back.

Regards

A very stressed business owner



Response-20210026
6935.pdf

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 December 2021 15:06
To: Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>
Cc: MSP Somerville S <shirley-anne.somerville.msp@parliament.scot>
Subject: Barbers

Good Afternoon

For the last couple of months I have noticed that many barbers in Dunfermline seem to be exempt from mask wearing which I found surprisingly. I had thought to see this change as regulations were once again tightened in an attempt to reduce the spread of the omicron variant, however these barbers seem to have missed the memo. Given the measures that both my hairdresser and beauty salon have put in place I would hate to see them face further restrictions due to the careless attitude of some members of the industry.

Can you please advise if barbers are exempt and if this is the case explain why.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]



Response-20210026
8782.pdf

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 December 2021 14:17
To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>
Subject: Funding [REDACTED]

Hi there I'm wanting to enquire to find out if there is going to be any additional funding for hair salons from additional funding announced for all the cancellations aswell for our sector thank you .

Sent from my iPhone



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Our Reference: 202100260937

17 December 2021

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 4 December to the First Minister regarding your concerns over face coverings for children aged 5-12. I have been asked to respond as I work within the Retail Division of the Scottish Government.

Face coverings remain an important part of stopping the spread of coronavirus and it continues to be the law, subject to existing exemptions, that face coverings must be worn in most indoor public settings: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): public use of face coverings - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-public-use-of-face-coverings/pages/face-coverings-for-children-and-young-people/).

The law states that children under 12 do not need to wear a face covering. Scientific evidence continues to show that children and young people, especially those under 12, are less likely to develop serious illness and to spread the virus to other children and adults. You can find more information here - www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-public-use-of-face-coverings/pages/face-coverings-for-children-and-young-people/.

Face coverings bring a benefit in reducing transmission of the virus but they are not a substitute for physical distancing, respiratory and hand hygiene and enhanced ventilation in indoor spaces. You may be interested to read our recently updated [guidance](#). This includes a section on shopping that applies to close contact services such as hairdressing salons, with a link to a checklist to enable people responsible for relevant premises where face coverings are required to take reasonable steps to promote compliance with the law.

I hope that you find the above information helpful. Thank you for your interest in keeping yourself, staff and the people of Scotland safe.

Yours sincerely,

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LED : Retail and Cities Policy

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[Redacted]

Our Reference: 202100265677

21 December 2021

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your email of 17 December, in which you have asked if it is still ok to carry out facials and waxing. I have been asked to respond as part of the Retail, Restart and Recovery team.

We have strengthened our sectoral guidance, available from Thursday 16 December, in an effort to avoid crowding in premises and at pinch points such as entrances, till points and bathroom areas.

We are asking businesses and service providers to return to the kind of protections they put in place at the start of the pandemic - for example measures to avoid crowding, including distancing, screens and other measures limiting close face-to-face interaction.

More information can be found within the safer workplaces guidance which details that businesses should strengthen compliance with current protection measures and make an extra effort to do so from now through the festive period and beyond.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): safer businesses and workplaces - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/Coronavirus(COVID-19):saferbusinessesandworkplaces)

More information on close contact services can be found at the link above.

I hope this is helpful and thank you for taking the time to write to the Scottish Government.

Yours sincerely

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[REDACTED]

Our Reference: 202100266943

6 January 2022

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 18 December to Nicola Sturgeon MSP, First Minister, about the response to the Omicron variant of COVID-19 and the impact on businesses. Ms Sturgeon thanks you for your correspondence and has asked me to respond to your enquiry.

We know the pandemic has been extremely difficult for businesses of all types, including of course those in the hair and beauty sector, and I am deeply sorry to read of the challenges you are facing.

Our priorities are to continue to lead Scotland safely through and out of the COVID pandemic. Omicron is transmitting rapidly within Scotland and there is strong evidence that community transmission is widespread.

There is still a huge amount that we do not know about this variant. Our response to the new variant will develop as we learn more about the risk it poses and as we find out more about its spread within Scotland.

As you will know, some key baseline measures are being kept in place, which are the principles we should all follow as part of our civic duty to keep each other safe and ensure the virus remains under control. These principles include wearing face coverings, hand-washing, staying at home if you have symptoms and getting tested and vaccinated.

We continue to engage with scientific experts domestically and internationally, and we remain open to reviewing our approach in light of the latest evidence available. This is provided via the Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group, details of which can be found here: [Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group](#)

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All decisions taken by Scottish Ministers have had to find a balance rooted in tackling the four harms we know the virus causes. 1) direct health impacts caused by Covid-19; 2) health impacts not directly related to Covid-19 - such as wider health and social care services; 3) societal impacts; and 4) economic impacts. Further information on assessing the four harms can be found by [here](#).

Every action the Scottish Government has taken throughout the pandemic has been based on the scientific and medical evidence available and all decisions have been and continue to be for the benefit of the public.

Any restrictions we reintroduce, should the data show that to be necessary, would be specific, targeted and proportional. We will not keep measures in place for any longer than necessary, and so if we see a significant reduction in the health harms and risks associated with Covid-19, we will ease restrictions.

We recognise the difficulties the updated public health guidance designed to slow transmission of Omicron brings for many businesses and within the devolved powers and resources at our disposal, we are doing everything in our power to help.

We have announced a £375 million support package for businesses, which includes £200 million from the Scottish Government's budget and £175 million made available by the Treasury.

To date we have provided details on how £262 million of this funding will be allocated, including £19 million for close contact businesses such as hairdressers and beauticians.

Further details of the support we have announced, as well as information about any further business support schemes will be published on the Scottish Government website and on [Find Business Support](#) as soon as they are available, and we would strongly encourage businesses to check these regularly for updates

We are working with local authorities, enterprise agencies and other partners to ensure this additional funding reaches businesses as soon as possible. All partners are clear that providing this funding to businesses who need it is an absolute priority.

From the beginning of the pandemic, the Scottish Government has done everything possible, within its limited resources, to help Scotland's businesses. We are continuing to focus on delivering the maximum support for businesses as possible, and remain grateful for the ongoing support with our collective efforts to suppress the virus to the lowest possible level.

Yours sincerely

CBRS : Strategic Business Engagement and Events (SBEED)

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[REDACTED]

Our Reference: 202100264413

5 January 2022

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 13 December, to the First Minister, in which you have highlighted concerns for your business in light of potential additional restrictions due to the new Omicron variant. I have been asked to respond as part of the Retail, Restart and Recovery team.

We are closely monitoring the trajectory and impact of Omicron. We have recently announced proportionate protective measures which are necessary to help slow Omicron's spread while we accelerate the pace of booster vaccines.

We do need to carefully consider whether we need to reinforce protections, especially if we begin to see a sharp increase in harm and hospitalisation as a result of large number of people getting infected with Omicron.

The nature and extent of potential further measures is also contingent on the UK Government making available the funding necessary to help mitigate the impact that this new variant has on jobs, business and our economy.

With regard to further financial support, we have already reprioritised a £100 million financial package to support eligible businesses experiencing cancellations during this key trading period.

The Finance secretary has also written to the UK Government seeking urgent clarification on what additional resources will be provided to the Scottish Government from the Treasury.

I hope this offers clarity of the ongoing position and we would encourage you to keep checking the Scottish Government website for further announcements and updates.

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Yours sincerely


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[REDACTED]

Our Reference: 202100266935

6 January 2022

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 18 December. I have been asked to respond as I work within the Retail Division of the Scottish Government.

We know the pandemic has been extremely challenging for all types of businesses and recognise the difficulties the updated public health guidance designed to slow transmission of Omicron brings for many. Within the devolved powers and resources at our disposal, the Scottish Government is doing everything in its power to help.

We have announced a £375 million support package for businesses, which includes £200 million from the Scottish Government's budget and £175 million made available by the Treasury.

To date we have provided details on how £262 million of this funding will be allocated, including £19 million for close contact businesses such as hairdressers and beauticians.

Further details of business support schemes will be published on the Scottish Government website and on [Find Business Support website](#) as soon as they are available, and I would strongly encourage businesses to check these regularly for updates.

We are working with local authorities, enterprise agencies and other partners to ensure this additional funding reaches businesses as soon as possible. All partners are clear that providing this funding to businesses who need it is an absolute priority.

From the beginning of the pandemic, the Scottish Government has done everything possible, within its limited resources, to help Scotland's businesses. We are continuing to focus on delivering the maximum support for businesses as possible, and remain grateful for the ongoing support with our

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collective efforts to suppress the virus to the lowest possible level.

You can find further Information on working safely during coronavirus for people who provide close contact services within our [guidance](#).

I hope that you find the above information helpful.

Yours sincerely


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[Redacted]

Our Reference: 202100268782

12 January 2022

Dear [Redacted],

Thank you for your email of 29 December, to Humza Yousaf, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, in which you have asked if barbers are exempt from mask wearing and if this is the case why? I have been asked to respond as part of the Retail, Restart and Recovery team.

Face coverings remain an important part of stopping the spread of coronavirus and it continues to be the law, subject to existing exemptions, that face coverings must be worn in most indoor public settings.

People responsible for relevant premises where face coverings are required to be worn should take reasonable steps to promote compliance with the law. The Scottish Government regularly engages with the retail sector on a range of issues that includes the importance of complying with the baseline measures.

Shop workers and retailers are not required to enforce this law, but are asked to talk to customers who are not wearing a face covering and explain the law. If customers refuse to wear a face covering, retailers and shop workers are asked not to stop customers from entering the store or from being served. The responsibility to wear a face covering rests with the individual and Police Scotland can issue penalty notices of up to £60 if members of the public do not comply with the law.

Concerns about any business who appear to not be operating in a safe manner should, in the first instance, be reported directly to the appropriate local authority, environmental health department, who can visit the premises and offer advice and guidance around regulations.

Please note, guidance that will help businesses to understand what the current measures are for ensuring the protection of their staff and customers is in the [Guidance for safer workplaces and businesses](#). Additional guidance for retailers in the form of a [checklist](#) is also available.

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I hope this information is helpful and thank you for bringing this matter to our attention.

Yours sincerely


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