

# John Lamont MP



Kate Forbes MSP  
Cabinet Secretary for Finance  
The Scottish Government  
St. Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

14<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

## **HELP FOR SCOTTISH BUSINESS**

We are in exceptional circumstances. I want to thank all the civil servants working in your department, as well as those across government, for their hard work and dedication at this very difficult time.

However, in my constituency in the Scottish Borders, there are grave concerns about some of the help being provided to businesses by the Scottish Government. Businesses are confused as to why grants in Scotland are not consistent with what is being offered elsewhere in the UK. This is despite £2.2bn coming to the Scottish Government to allow for the provision of equivalent support. This is an especially pertinent issue in the Scottish Borders given that competitors to businesses in this area are often only a few miles away on the other side of the border. These competitors are receiving significantly different financial help. I am sure you can understand why this is concerning for our economy and employment opportunities.

Despite initial assurances from the First Minister, the Scottish Government does not appear to be passing on all the help that is being provided by the UK Government. One of the big differences is for Scottish businesses with multiple properties which will only receive one grant. No such limit has been imposed south of the border. I would be grateful if you could explain the rationale for this decision. The UK Government has provided funding to Scotland to allow the same support to be provided in Scotland.

I would be grateful if you could respond to these issues that are concerning businesses in my constituency and across Scotland. The decisions the Scottish Government has taken will have a lasting impact on the economic viability of Scotland's businesses.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Lamont".

John Lamont MP  
Berwickshire, Roxburgh & Selkirk

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