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John McDonnell MP  
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27<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear John McDonnell MP,

I am writing to you again on behalf of the Heathrow Hoteliers Association which represents the 45 hotels situated around Heathrow Airport, many of which are within your constituency where many of our employees also live.

The new tier system and their geographical coverage are a hammer blow for our businesses, our local suppliers, and the whole hospitality sector. Forecasts show that over the course of December the sector will be down a staggering £7.8 billion in revenue compared to last year a decline of over 70%. Similarly, in the Heathrow market revenue per available room is down 72% compared to last year, with further losses in meeting, event, food and beverage trade.

The tiered system is devastating for us and, as the Prime Minister outlined, we are at risk of moving up and down the tiers. In Tier 3 our hotels are limited essential business only and our food & beverage outlets to takeaway only – the same as in lockdown. In Tier 2 we are severely restricted by not being allowed mixed households and allowing sales of alcohol only with food. In Tier 1 the curfew, even though extended slightly, and other measures mean we will continue to trade well below normal levels.

We want to be able to trade our way out of this crisis, but to do so we need a Government approach that:

- Allows our businesses to join the Christmas relaxation from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> December – hospitality venues provide safer places to socialise than the majority of homes
- Permits the sale of alcoholic drinks without the need for a table meal, especially for hotel residents who have nowhere else to go
- Reconsiders the ban on indoor household mixing in Tier 2 especially for business purposes or where we have colleagues who work together all day but cannot share a table when having dinner in a hotel whilst working away from home
- Review the tiers regularly across a range of measures to allow our area to trade as freely as possible
- Lifts the curfew for Christmas and New Year's Eve to avoid illegal and dangerous parties.

Whilst we would prefer to be trading, there must also be an adequate support package in place if we cannot. In the short-term we need the Government to:

- Replace the Job Retention Bonus with an equivalent scheme to recognise the fact we have maintained our workforce in difficult circumstances and had promised funding removed
- Extend the rent debt moratoria to ensure the integrity of our communities and avoid mass evictions, closures, and job losses

- Ensure the flow of necessary grants for closure and impeded trade, by streamlining the grant application process and setting grants at the right level to cover costs.

As we look to 2021 and the hope of rebuilding my business there are three critical measures that Government can take, that have widespread industry support

1. Extend the 100% business rates holiday into 2021/22
2. Extend the 5% VAT rate for tourism and hospitality until at least the end of 2021, not least to avoid a sudden 15% increase in prices for customers just as the Spring season begins.
3. Further improve the new testing option as an alternative to quarantine to allow international travel to restart safely

Many of our members have already had to make redundancies, and with the latest restrictions on trade thousands more constituency jobs will be at risk without support. We do not want to be in the situation of continually asking for support, but the lockdowns and restrictions we have faced this year leave us with no option.

I implore you to request of Government the right for us to trade as fully and safely as we can, to help us survive the winter, protect jobs in your constituency, and bounce back strongly in 2021.

Yours Sincerely,



Richard Lee  
Chair  
Heathrow Hoteliers Association