

The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
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LONDON
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Philip Glanville, Mayor of Hackney
Cllr Rebecca Rennison, Deputy Mayor
of Hackney and Cabinet Member for
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Dear Rishi,

We are writing to urge you to avoid needlessly putting jobs and businesses at risk by making a clear commitment to extend business rates relief beyond April for thousands of struggling businesses in Hackney. This support over the course of 2020/21 was critical to supporting businesses across the borough and for the Council it gave us a degree of certainty over our funding. If you act now you can give our under pressure businesses the certainty they need as they plan for the next financial year and their eventual recovery from the economic shocks of coronavirus.

We are very concerned that at a time when businesses are planning for the next financial year, and whether to renew leases on buildings, keep staff on, or even if they can remain viable, the Government has not made any commitment to extend Non-Domestic Rates Relief beyond 5 April.

If this relief comes to a sudden end at the end of this financial year, business owners in Hackney have made it clear to us that they will face very difficult choices about the future of their business and employees. Our latest figures show nearly 2,600 businesses have claimed 100% relief this year – saving them an average of nearly



£20,000 each – and we will be forced by law to soon send them similar, significant bills for the year ahead next month unless the Government takes action now. We don't want to do this, but will be left with no choice and have to send the final letters to the printers in the next few weeks

While we know that you are planning to deliver a Budget on 3 March, businesses need this certainty now, and we urge you to commit to extending this relief as soon as possible. This will also avoid the unnecessary stress and distraction of councils issuing bills next month that will then need to be recalculated and amended following any measures you outline in March's Budget.

In addition to these reliefs, Hackney also has ratepayers who are still in transition to the full rate bill following the introduction of the 2017 valuation list (and whose increases are phased in), and ratepayers who previously received small business rates relief prior to the 2017 revaluation, but do not receive it as a result of the revaluation, and whose increase is limited each year (Supporting Small Business relief). We would urge you to take practical action to also protect these firms from steep hikes at a time when they can least afford it.

Whether introducing mass testing, introducing lockdown measures or putting border restrictions in place, other Government departments have been too slow and too late throughout the response to the pandemic. We urge you to safeguard Hackney's jobs and businesses by getting ahead of the game and take clear action now.

Yours sincerely,



Philip Glanville
Mayor of Hackney



Cllr Guy Nicholson
**Cabinet Member for
Planning, Culture &
Inclusive Economy**



Cllr Rebecca Rennison
**Deputy Mayor of Hackney and
Cabinet Member for Finance,
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CC: Meg Hillier MP, Member of Parliament for Hackney South and Shoreditch
Rt Hon Diane Abbott MP, Member of Parliament for Hackney North and Stoke Newington

