Dear [Member of Parliament]

I am writing today as the [owner/director/manager] of [insert business name], in response to the publication of the Global Travel Taskforce report, to ask if you will write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer on my behalf, to urge him to consider making targeted financial support available for travel businesses for as long as COVID-19 restrictions continue to remain in place for our industry.

While the recently published Global Travel Taskforce report has provided us with an initial framework for restarting, the future of international travel is far from certain. As a travel agency business, we receive most of our income through commission that is paid close to the departure of clients. Having had to refund nearly all monies earned for holidays due to depart over the past year, and with the outlook for travel non-existent in the coming weeks, we need financial support to help us through to the summer.

The Government is clear throughout the Global Travel Taskforce report that the approach for international travel will remain cautious in the short-term and, notably, the report states the Government “cannot yet confirm resumption of international travel from 17 May”. The recovery of the international travel sector will be slower than that outlined for businesses in other sectors in the UK Government’s roadmap published on 22 February, which envisages that most physical trading restrictions will be lifted by 21 June.

I would, therefore, ask the Chancellor to consider the following support measures:

* **Retention of existing furlough** and self-employed income support for businesses operating in international travel, without tapering, for a minimum of six-months from 17 May, with future reviews.
* **Extension of full business rates relief** for travel companies (agents and operators) operating from rateable premises for a minimum of six-months from 17 May, with future reviews.
* **Creation of new sector-specific ‘recovery grants’ regime** for travel agents, tour operators and travel management companies that are reliant on international travel for their revenues.

[Office of National Statistics](https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/grossdomesticproductgdp/articles/coronavirusandtheimpactonoutputintheukeconomy/february2021) data on the output on the UK economy has consistently demonstrated that the travel sector has been the hardest hit service sector in the UK economy as a result of COVID-19, with the latest data showing that travel agencies and tour operators had a decline in output of 88.7%, when comparing January 2021 to February 2020. This follows almost a year of severe restrictions on trade across the travel industry, including constantly changing travel corridors, FCDO Travel Advice against many destinations across the globe, and local and national restrictions in the UK, such as ‘stay at home’ orders. Together these measures have destroyed consumer confidence and demand.

[Consider adding personal circumstances here, including any specific difficulties in accessing Government support schemes to date]

Backing the travel industry now will help to position us to act as a driving force in the economic recovery of the UK, and I hope you will consider lending your support.

Yours sincerely,