Dear [Member of Parliament]

I am writing today as the [owner/director/manager] of [insert business name], to ask that you write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Transport Secretary to urge them 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 it is welcome that the Government has confirmed that international travel can now resume, from 17 May, there are a very limited number of destinations on the approved “green-list” for travel, and the Global Travel Taskforce report makes clear that significant constraints will remain in place for many months to come. As such, we know recovery of the UK travel industry will be a gradual process, and it is vital that the Government provides tailored financial support to travel agents, tour operators, and other businesses in the sector, in recognition of the severe trading constraints that we remain under.

I would 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 because 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 over 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.

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

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 cautious restart of travel, we need financial support to help us through the coming months.

A comprehensive, risk-based restart of international travel is vital. The industry needs to see:

* **Publication of the criteria that will be used for the new ‘traffic light’ system,** which must be clear and transparent to enable consumers and businesses to plan effectively.
* **Clarity on the approach to use of Foreign Office travel advice** and how it will work with the new country traffic light system.
* **Affordable and proportionate testing**, with the eventual aim of moving towards restriction free travel between low-risk areas (green countries).
* **Investment in Border Force and digitisation**, to ensure people feel confident enough to travel and are not deterred from doing so because of an inability to effectively manage passenger flows at the border.

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,