Dear [Insert MLA name]

**Save Future Travel – businesses need a roadmap for re-opening and recovery**

I am writing today as the [owner/director/manager] of [insert business name], in light of the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions being imposed on individuals and businesses across Northern Ireland, even as international travel begins to slowly re-open, to ask you to back the Save Future Travel campaign and urge the Northern Irish Executive to provide additional support for travel businesses who have been devastated by the current crisis.

[Insert some information on your travel business – for example, how long have you been in business, how many people do you employ]

In normal times, the travel industry is worth over £296m (GVA) to the Northern Irish economy, employing over 5,300 people full time. Travel is not only viable as a sector, but it will also be invaluable to the economic recovery of the nation – and it is critical that the Northern Ireland Executive does all it can to help businesses and protect jobs.

The Northern Ireland Executive’s confirmation that international travel is now able to resume is a positive step, but there is a very limited number of destinations on the approved “green-list” for travel, and significant constraints will remain in place for many months to come. It is vital that the Executive makes available tailored financial support to ensure businesses can make it through the crisis to recovery.

[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 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 Northern Ireland, such as ‘stay at home’ orders.

[Consider adding personal circumstances here, e.g. 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 all monies earned for holidays due this year, and with the outlook for travel appearing bleak in the coming weeks, we need financial support to help us through to the next potential major travel period.]

While it is right that we support the necessary public health measures in pursuit of tackling COVID-19, with the vaccine rollout progressing well, and the increasing availability of other mitigation measures, it should be possible to re-open travel in line with a risk-based approach. The industry also needs to see affordable and proportionate testing, with the eventual aim of moving towards restriction free travel between low-risk areas (green countries).

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,