Dear [Member of Parliament]

I am writing today as the [owner/director/manager] of [insert business name], in response to the tapering of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) from 1 July, and the ongoing lack of targeted support for the travel sector, despite continuing restrictions on international travel. I would 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, 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.

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

* **Retain existing furlough and self-employed income support**for businesses operating in international travel, without tapering, for a minimum of six-months, with future reviews.
* **Expand salary support schemes to include homeworkers** and other individuals who have previously been excluded from support such as owner-Directors.
* **Extend full business rates relief for travel companies**(agents and operators) operating from rateable premises for a minimum of six-months, with future reviews.
* **Create a 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:

**Enable a meaningful restart of international travel by implementing the traffic-light system as outlined in the Global Travel Taskforce report, by:**

* **Moving more destinations to the green list** – where the epidemiological situation allows, including full implementation of the islands policy, and adopting a clear and transparent approach to the data around which decisions are taken for each destination.
* **Exempting fully vaccinated travellers from testing requirements for green and amber destinations** – more than thirty countries are already relaxing travel restrictions for those that have been fully vaccinated. The success of the UK vaccine rollout should be capitalised on to enable those who have been fully vaccinated to travel again safely.
* **Removing VAT from PCR tests and considering the use of lateral flow for low-risk areas** – many countries already accept lateral flow or other rapid tests, and the Government should also focus on reducing the cost of testing to help stimulate consumer demand for travel.
* **Cooperating with international partners on digital certification** – Government must work closely with key partners to facilitate international travel and interoperability of digital certification systems.

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,