Dear [Insert MSP name]

**Save Future Travel –** **additional financial support in light of the cautious restart of international travel**

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 Scotland, even as international travel begins to slowly re-open, to ask you to back the Save Future Travel campaign and urge the Scottish Government 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 employs nearly 30,000 people in Scotland and is worth over £1.87bn to the Scottish economy. 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 Scottish Government does all it can to help businesses and protect jobs.

The First Minister’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 Government makes available tailored financial support to ensure businesses can make it through the crisis to recovery.

We also know that consumer confidence will be critical to the recovery of international travel, and it was, therefore, disappointing that the First Minister has set out to actively discourage international travel, when he most recently stated on 13 July – “we continue to advise against non-essential overseas travel at this time” when announcing that from 19 July quarantine for fully vaccinated individuals will no longer be required.

[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 Scotland, 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, such as testing, 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,