Dear [Member of Parliament]

I am writing today as the [owner/director/manager] of [insert business name], following the UK’s ‘lost summer’ of travel, and in anticipation of the ending of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) this month. As my local MP, I am asking you to support my business by writing to both the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Transport Secretary to urge them, respectively, to consider making targeted financial support available for travel businesses in the upcoming Autumn Budget, and to open up international travel further to help us to trade our way out of this ongoing crisis.

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

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.
* **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.
* **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.

Ultimately, however, a comprehensive, risk-based re-opening of international travel is vital. The Government must use October’s strategic review to kickstart travel – creating an environment for businesses to trade their way out of the crisis. It can do this by:

* **Ending the traffic light system and instead treat all destinations as open by default.**
* **Retaining a short red list only for the management of known variants of concern that pose a risk to the UK vaccine rollout and public health.**
* **Ending the widespread use of PCR testing.**

The UK has been much slower than other countries at re-opening international travel and when it did, travellers faced significant restrictions for much of the summer. This is in stark contrast to the EU whose citizens have, for quite some time, been able to travel without restriction across much of Europe if they have been double vaccinated. As a result, international travel to and from the UK has fallen behind that experienced by our European neighbours, even though in many cases their vaccination rates have lagged behind those in the UK. Data from Airports Council International Europe suggests that air travel bookings across Europe are at around 60% of pre-Covid levels, compared to 30% in the UK.

The Government’s delay in capitalising on the successful vaccine roll outs has meant travel companies have had a very short window to generate income and the ongoing restrictions are curtailing trade. 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,