



Sarah Owen MP
Member of Parliament for Luton North

Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
By email CEU.Enquiries@hmtreasury.gov.uk

28th September 2020

Dear Chancellor

Changes to support for the self-employed through covid-19

A large number of people in Luton North have contacted me over the last few days about your announcement on Thursday on the future of support for the self-employed through the pandemic.

In your Winter Economic Plan, you announced fresh support grants for the self-employed, which you will be aware represent a significant cut in support compared to payments earlier in the year.

My constituents are greatly concerned that, of the detail announced so far, the first grant at the start of November will cover just 20% of average monthly trading profits. The original Coronavirus Self Employment Income Support Scheme amounted to 80% of profits up to a cap of £2,500 per month. This represents a significant drop in support for the self employed as this pandemic continues and struggles for the self-employed continue as we enter a second wave.

On behalf of my constituents, I ask you to urgently announce what action your government plans to take to support those who will now experience a really steep fall in support but for whom business is nothing like back to normal. I am concerned by the deficient nature of the plan you have announced for supporting the self-employed after having months to get this right. Surely, we can both agree with a common-sense approach where these interventions are targeted to where they are most needed.

I know my constituents who are now even more anxious about their work over the next few weeks and months will be waiting eagerly for your response.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Owen MP
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