



NORTHERN
IRELAND
HOTELS
FEDERATION

The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

19th March 2020

Dear Chancellor

I write to you as Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Hotels Federation, the body representing hotels and other tourist accommodation in Northern Ireland.

At this difficult time, we need urgent attention to be given to our industry. Premises are closing and staff losing their jobs every hour. Our local Assembly and Executive have limited powers to help the sector - we need the UK Government to step up and help us support the livelihoods of the tens of thousands of workers that we employ.

In consultation with our members, we would propose the following:

1. A redundancy amnesty for up to 16 weeks for those laid off, increasing from 4 weeks currently. This would give us some breathing space in the short term and reduce the fiscal risk of redundancy.
2. Guaranteed minimum pay for lay-offs, paid via the employer. Or, lump sum payments to employees upon lay-off and on return to work.
3. 100% Rates Relief for 2020-21 for all registered accommodation businesses in Northern Ireland. This has not been passed on by local Government.
4. Deferral of all HMRC payments including PAYE, NICS, VAT and Corporation Tax until January 2021.

It would also be helpful for all future public briefings to be addressed to all of the UK, including the devolved Governments, and clarification made in the briefing when something does not automatically apply to the devolved nations.

Yours sincerely,

Janice Gault
Chief Executive

Northern Ireland Hotels Federation

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