



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

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Dear Carolyn and Judith,

Thank you for your letter of 21 May, to the Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP, from the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Beauty, Aesthetics and Wellbeing. You raise several concerns surrounding Government support of beauty businesses during the COVID-19 outbreak. I understand that this is a very worrying time for businesses. I am replying on behalf of the Department.

I am grateful for the APPG's interest in this area and your support for the sector. I completely agree that the sector provides an important role in wellbeing, and we wish to open them at the earliest point at which it is safe to do so. While we cannot say precisely when these businesses will reopen, we will of course give as much notice as we can.

We have listened to calls from you and the sector to bring industry groups to the table to discuss these issues. We held a meeting with key businesses and business representative organisations (BROs) on 22 May to do just that and had a very constructive conversation. We will continue to engage and discuss the issues, which you have set out so clearly in your letter, in particular the points around personal protective equipment (PPE).

As you may know, hotels and other accommodation are part of the recreation and leisure taskforce led by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. We are working across Departments to ensure issues such as salons or spas embedded within hotels are flagged.

With regard to the Job Retention Scheme, further announcements will be made on how this will operate. Future decisions on the scheme will have to take into account the wider context of the economic conditions, social distancing and the public health response, the affordability of the scheme, and the need to provide certainty to employers and employees.

To address the point made around rogue businesses continuing to operate, the enforcement of health and safety legislation is dealt with by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and local authorities. HSE continues to offer support and guidance, and where individuals have specific concerns about the way a business is operating at this time, these can be reported to HSE directly via www.hse.gov.uk/contact/concerns.htm.

Thank you for taking the time to write. I hope you find this information useful.

Yours ever,

RT HON KWASI KWARTENG MP
Minister of State for Business, Energy and Clean Growth