



Rishi Sunak MP  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
HM Treasury  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

Dear Chancellor Sunak,

British BIDs represents the 328 BIDs in the British Isles, and I am writing on behalf of the Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) in England, following the announcement made by the Health Secretary in relation to Leicester City, and the delay in reopening. We are very conscious that this return to lockdown will affect Leicester greatly, and may well affect and town or city across the county if further spikes occur.

As you are well aware, the current Coronavirus crisis has been incredibly challenging for businesses of all shapes and sizes and many of them are currently fighting for their survival. The support packages you introduced have provided a valuable lifeline, and BIDs across the country have been working hard to ensure that their levy-paying businesses have been able to access the job retention scheme, the business support grants, and the bounce back loans that you made available to enable them to continue to operate.

The return to a lockdown in any of our towns and cities, including Leicester, will bring many of their night-time economy businesses to the brink of insolvency again, and many of the non-essential retailers who have now been instructed to close are also once again facing an existential crisis.

In order for businesses to survive the cashflow crisis prompted by these exceptional measures, we are asking that additional direct grant funding is provided to any businesses affected by future lockdown as soon as possible. I am aware that approximately £1.8bn of the national business support grants fund remains unspent and suggest that the funds could be drawn from these unspent monies for any cities or regions facing localised lockdowns in future.

I do hope that you will be able to continue to assist businesses at a very troubled time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CMTurner".

Professor Christopher Turner  
Chief Executive  
British BIDs