



Rt Hon Rishi Sunak  
Chancellor of the Exchequer

Dear Chancellor Sunak,

I write on behalf of British BIDs, the membership organisation representing the 329 Business Improvement Districts in the British Isles. Firstly, can we thank you for the work you are doing to support businesses during this difficult time. Recent initiatives such as the Eat Out To Help Out Scheme and the VAT rate reduction for hospitality businesses are vital support measures.

I am writing now on behalf of BIDs that represent many thousands of hospitality businesses across the UK, which have been part of the Eat Out To Help Out Scheme operating throughout August. We understand that around 85,000 establishments have participated, with some 35 million meals served up in the first two weeks alone. We know already that this has been a very successful initiative, hugely appreciated by businesses.

We ask that you consider extending the scheme into the autumn, ideally until the end of October.

The scheme has been of enormous benefit to the entire hospitality industry, but those BIDs which operate within tourism destinations have been severely affected by the lockdown during March to July and have missed out on part of the season. Since restrictions were eased, this has given them an opportunity to recover some of the lost income, but as autumn looms and children return to school, business will inevitably slow down. In some cases where tourism is the bedrock of the economy such as the South West, an extension of this scheme could provide a lifeline to businesses that need to survive throughout the winter months.

Having the Eat Out to Help Out Scheme operating throughout the autumn would help to extend the season for these businesses, and also encourage local residents across the UK to support their local eateries at a quieter time and therefore sustain business for these sectors.

We should be grateful if you would consider this request.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Turner'.

Professor Christopher Turner  
Chief Executive  
British BIDs  
[Chris.turner@britishbids.info](mailto:Chris.turner@britishbids.info)  
07841070672