



House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2020

**Private Letter**

Dear Chancellor and Secretary of State,

We are writing to you in regards to extending Business Rate Relief for dentists and other private and mixed healthcare providers such as physiotherapists and osteopaths during the current coronavirus crisis.

These are incredibly unsettling times for all businesses. However, it is clear that many private and mixed dental practices and other healthcare providers in our constituencies are struggling disproportionately.

NHSE, for example, has understandably said that all routine dentistry should cease. The very nature of the work dentists and other private healthcare practitioners undertake renders the continuation of their work impossible. Dentists which have NHS contracts are due to be remunerated for the NHS work they would have undertaken, affording them the same income stream as they have had in March 2019.

However, in stark contrast, private practices have seen their income stream completely collapse, yet they continue to be liable for their existing overheads. Aside from rent/mortgage repayments, for which many commercial landlords offer limited support, their liability for business rates is proving a particular strain.

The Government guidance currently states that mixed practices can furlough private dental staff in proportion to the amount of NHS work they undertake, and private practices must rely on the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme or the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan. However, we have all received correspondence from those in the industry detailing the issues they have faced with these schemes.

These are not wealthy people; in many instances they are small local practices employing one or two dental or other healthcare practitioners. In many ways, they are very akin to the retail, hospitality and leisure sector, yet they supply an essential healthcare service which, in normal times, would ease the strain on NHS providers.

We would therefore call on the Government to allow for a twelve-month moratorium on business rates for dentists and private and mixed healthcare providers.

We are clearly aware that Government has been exceptionally bold and generous with the financial package it has offered to businesses and individuals and the public purse is not unlimited. We do however believe that dentists and other private health providers are facing extreme issues and so we would ask that they be treated akin to the retail, hospitality and leisure sector.

By extending the business rate relief, the Government would ensure the long-term viability of a vast number of businesses providing an essential service up and down the country, while similarly protecting individuals who would otherwise be forced to enter the welfare system. These are frontline staff, who are clearly as vital to the community and the economy as those in the retail, leisure and hospitality sector, and extremely deserving of this support.

We would be grateful if you could take our correspondence into full consideration, and we look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Felicity Buchan MP  
Lee Anderson MP  
Bob Blackman MP  
The Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP  
Sir Graham Brady MP  
Andy Carter MP  
Greg Clark MP  
Theo Clarke MP  
Laura Farris MP  
Simon Fell MP  
Marcus Fysh MP  
The Rt Hon Dame Cheryl Gillan MP  
Andrew Griffith MP  
Jonathan Gullis MP  
John Howell MP

Pauline Latham MP  
Tim Loughton MP  
Jason McCartney MP  
Esther McVey MP  
The Rt Hon Maria Miller MP  
Nigel Mills MP  
Gagan Mohindra MP  
The Rt Hon Caroline Nokes MP  
Laurence Robertson MP  
Selaine Saxby MP  
Craig Tracey MP  
Laura Trott MP  
Heather Wheeler MP