

First Minister of Scotland  
Scottish Parliament

07 October 2020

Dear First Minister,

I am writing to you on behalf of our Scottish members and the wider hair and beauty industry in Scotland who are seeking further explanation on the decision to allocate £40 Million additional funding to the Hospitality Industry without any further consideration for the Hair & Beauty Sector.

While we acknowledge that hospitality has been hard hit this sector was at least given some reprieve by being allowed to return to work over the last few months.

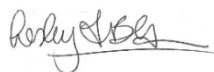
Due to ongoing Scottish government restrictions some of our Hair & Beauty salons, in particular mobile therapists and freelance make-up artists, have been unable to resume work at all since lockdown first began in March, with NO allocation of further funding made available. Our sector is arguably one of the very worst affected sectors and the reason for countless desperate requests to government to offer further financial support.

BABTAC ran a Scottish survey back at the end of August to assess just how dire the financial situation facing businesses in our sector was, and the results remain incredibly concerning. 19% of businesses could not open at all while for an additional 5% opening wasn't financially viable given all the restrictions in place. A quarter of businesses said they would need to close their doors imminently without further financial support from government or changes to restrictions, while a further 68% were also in financial trouble.

While our members and much of our industry are committed to ensuring they adhere to Government guidance and understand how tough many decisions are right now it is imperative that government recognise our sector as one of the worst affected and therefore acknowledge the critical need of further financial support from government.

Thank you for your consideration on this urgent and important matter.

Yours sincerely,



Lesley Blair, BABTAC Chair