



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**  
London SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
HM Treasury  
The Correspondence and Enquiry Unit  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

2nd February 2021

By email

Dear Rishi,

I hope that this letter finds you well. I write on behalf of several businesses in my constituency represented by the Ilford Business Improvement District (BID) regarding Business Rates Relief.

Local businesses, like those represented by Ilford BID, are the beating heart of constituencies like mine and have tragically been on the frontline of the economic crisis. Having spoken to representatives from Ilford BID, I understand that unfortunately several local businesses have had to close their doors for good and it is clear we are approaching a crisis point.

The pandemic has accelerated changes to the way we shop and threatens the future of our high streets. It is therefore essential now, more than ever, that we ensure our business rates system is right.

It is clear that the business rates system is not fit for purpose; it is complex, costly and time-consuming and in need of urgent reform, and I have long supported calls for a root-and-branch review of the system.

The Government announced a fundamental review of business rates in the March 2020 Budget and published a call for evidence in July. The review aims to reduce the overall burden on businesses, improve the current business rates system and consider more fundamental changes in the medium to long-term. The review was scheduled to conclude in spring 2021, but an interim report due in the autumn has yet to be published.

Given the number of jobs depending on our local shops and the threat those jobs face, will you commit to an urgent review of business rates?

I look forward to your urgent reply,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sam Tarry', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Sam Tarry MP**  
Member of Parliament for Ilford South