



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

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

3 July 2020

Dear Chancellor,

**Support for the beauty industry**

As we begin to reopen the economy and businesses are gradually able to reopen from Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July, I would like you to consider the challenges currently faced by the beauty industry. Businesses such as tattoo studios, beauty salons, body piercing parlours and nail bars are facing an unprecedented challenge. This challenge is two-fold. Not only are they precluded from opening, they are also facing grave difficulties in accessing Government support.

Beauty salons take hygiene and cross contamination prevention very seriously and many have been using disposable facial coverings and gloves as standard protection at all times, before Covid-19. As these businesses are licenced, it is already standard practice for them to do a deep clean before and after every customer, and for the equipment used for each individual customer to be pre-packed and sterile to a hospital standard.

Many of the businesses that have contacted me, have made great financial sacrifices to ensure preparedness for reopening this month and operating in a safe environment. They have made further investments in additional PPE supplies and cleaning products, to ensure safety of their staff as well as their customers. However, they are not included on the list of businesses allowed to open this weekend. Additionally, many businesses in the beauty industry have continued to incur great costs including rent, insurance and supplies, whilst receiving no income and support, as they have not been eligible for the small business grant funding.

For many of these businesses, summer is the busiest part of the year, which often provides them with enough income to survive during the quieter months in winter. By being forced to stay closed to customers beyond 4th July - unlike many other businesses in the sector, such as hairdressers - tattoo studios, beauty salons, body piercing parlours and nail bars in my constituency are facing serious threat of closure. This would have detrimental effect on our local economy.

I would like to encourage the Government to reconsider its position on reopening the beauty industry this summer, and to consider what further measures of financial assistance can be put into place to support businesses that are prevented from opening and unable to access the Government's support.

Your support would be most welcomed by the most affected businesses in Wealden and their many existing customers. I look forward to hearing from you further on this matter.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'N Ghani' with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Nusrat Ghani MP