



DAVID T C DAVIES MP  
Member for Monmouth

**Please reply to:**  
The Grange  
16 Maryport Street  
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Monmouthshire  
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**Date:** 16 March 2020  
**Our Ref:** DD3784  
**Your Ref:**

**URGENT**

Rt Hon Mark Drakeford AM  
First Minister of Wales  
Welsh Government  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Dear Mark

I am writing to urge the Welsh Government to match UK Budget measures to help small firms deal with the economic fallout from coronavirus.

As you know, business rates in England have been temporarily abolished for retail, leisure and hospitality firms with a rateable value below £51,000. These sectors are expected to be among the worst affected as people cut back on travel and stay home during the Covid-19 outbreak.

Other small businesses will also benefit from a £30bn stimulus package brought in as a response to the public health emergency, announced by Chancellor Rishi Sunak last week.

As business rates are devolved, I wish to join the growing number of business bodies calling on the Welsh Government to follow suit and issue an urgent statement detailing what will happen in Wales.

Over the weekend I visited Tintern to meet with businesses which were affected by recent flooding and now face a further hit from the lack of visitors due to coronavirus. The one message I kept hearing was "when are we going to get a statement about business rates in Wales?". I fully agree we need that statement **NOW**. People running hospitality businesses want certainty in these difficult times.

I therefore trust you will give immediate consideration to using the extra funding being provided to Wales by the UK Government to match the business rates relief offered to firms in England. There should be no debate about it. We need action and a full commitment this week.

Yours ever

**David T C Davies MP**

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