



The Chartered
Institute of
Management
Accountants®

The Rt. Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
Chief Secretary's Office
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

23rd March 2020

Dear Chancellor of the Exchequer,

Re: COVID-19

I am writing to you in my capacity as the Chief Executive, Management Accounting at the Association of International Certified Professional Accountants, regarding business and worker financial and economic support in the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic. Attached to this letter are five policy suggestions that we believe the Government could announce and implement quickly in order to protect very small SMEs and the self-employed, keep them working and ensure they have immediate cashflow in order to survive.

Our association represents 667,000 members and students across 184 countries and territories in public and management accounting and advocates for the public interest and business sustainability on current and emerging issues. In the UK, the Chartered Institute of Management Accounting (CIMA) has over 80,000 members who are advising their businesses and clients right now on actions to take to deal with the Coronavirus and keep their businesses both viable and profitable.

CIMA was founded in 1919 in the wake of World War One after our members helped with the Government's response to that national crisis. Together with the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA), CIMA is part of the world's largest professional body of management accountants. CIMA helps individuals and businesses to succeed by harnessing the full power of management accounting – not just accounting for the balance sheet but accounting for business and how to deal with new and emerging threats and trends.

Our members across all sectors and businesses of all sizes have spoken to us about the challenges they are facing in securing the businesses financial security and keeping cashflow going within the business and thus the wider economy.

We note the measures the Government has already announced and believe they will help a great many businesses and employees. We also welcome the British Business Bank Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme and think this will be beneficial to many SMEs. We would also be very happy for our members to provide advice to SMEs alongside other accountancy bodies.



The Chartered
Institute of
Management
Accountants®

However, our members feel that there is a big gap in support for micro-enterprises, the self-employed, sole traders and gig economy workers. As an organisation, we believe that this needs to be rectified if the UK economy is to ride out this crisis.

The UK has 4.8 million self-employed people, 4.7 million workers in the gig economy and over 5 million SMEs. There are many families and business currently relying on them to succeed. The UK is an economy that relies on SMEs and the self-employed. Put simply, if they fail then the wider economy will fail. We believe the measures we have proposed will help micro-enterprises and the self-employed overcome this crisis and ensure that the UK economy stays strong.

I would be happy to have a call with you or your officials to discuss our proposals and wider support for SMEs and the self-employed. I look forward to hearing back from you.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Harding
Chief Executive, Management Accounting

cc.

Rt Hon Michael Gove, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office

Rt Hon Alok Sharma, Secretary of State for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy