



## UK and Global Advocacy Roundup (23 Mar – 22 May)

Over the last few months we have focused our advocacy efforts in providing Governments around the world with constructive ideas for how they can support and help businesses, maintain employment and keep cash flowing through businesses and the economy. We have focussed a lot of our efforts on advocating for SME support.

We have done this with support of our members and volunteer leadership throughout the world. They have generously given of their time and insight in each country to help us develop advice and insights for national governments.

We have produced letters covering the UK, Hong Kong, South Africa and Australia with advice for India and Malaysia in the pipeline.

### CIMA Letters to Government

CIMA continues to call on Government to help small businesses and the self-employed through the global pandemic. We continue to create tools and advocate for policies to help recovery.

|   |              |   |          |
|---|--------------|---|----------|
| 1 | UK           | <a href="#">Letter to Chancellor: Financial Measures to Help Micro-Enterprises and Self-Employed to deal with Coronavirus</a> | March 23 |
| 2 | UK           | <a href="#">Letter to Chancellor: Further Coronavirus support for SMEs</a>  | April 1  |
| 3 | Hong Kong    | <a href="#">Suggestions to improve economic stimulus packages in Hong Kong</a>  | April 14 |
| 4 | UK           | <a href="#">Letter to Minister of State: More support for SMEs</a>  | April 16 |
| 5 | UK           | <a href="#">Letter to Chancellor on Coronavirus Business Interruption Loans (CBILs)</a>                                       | April 21 |
| 6 | UK           | <a href="#">Joint Letter to Chancellor: COVID-19 Support for SMEs</a>   | April 27 |
| 7 | South Africa | <a href="#">Letter about classification of accountancy and tax services as essential services in South Africa.</a>            | May 4    |



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| 8  | South Africa | <a href="#">Letter to South African Quality Council for Trade and Occupations about CIMA exams being online.</a>           | May 6  |
| 9  | South Africa | <a href="#">Suggestions to improve economic stimulus packages in South Africa</a>  | May 12 |
| 10 | UK           | <a href="#">Letter to Chancellor: Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and Coronavirus Self-Employed Income Support Scheme</a> | May 12 |

## Advocacy Related Media and Press Activity

(OLDEST TO NEWEST) # Title Date

|   |   |          |
|---|---|----------|
| 1 | <a href="#">CIMA suggests five key things to help out the self-employed, sole traders and UK small businesses during the coronavirus pandemic</a>   | March 24 |
| 2 | <a href="#">Letter to the editor: We must do more to support SMEs and kickstart our economy</a>   | March 26 |
| 3 | <a href="#">Letter to the editor: More can be done to level the playing field for all workers</a>   | March 26 |
| 4 | <a href="#">Letter to the editor: We must invest in people to prepare for a brighter future</a>   | March 30 |
| 5 | <a href="#">Six additional measures to support UK SMEs the Chancellor needs to consider in response to the coronavirus pandemic</a>   | April 1  |
| 6 | <a href="#">Letter to the editor: Banks must understand that we're all in this together</a>   | April 2  |
| 7 | <a href="#">Letter to the editor: Let's make sure SMEs aren't caught between the banks and the Government</a>   | April 3  |
| 8 | <a href="#">Letter to the Hong Kong government: Suggestions to support businesses amid the coronavirus outbreak</a>   | April 14 |
| 9 | <a href="#">Media coverage: Suggestions to improve stimulus packages in Hong Kong</a><br>CIMAs suggestions to the Hong Kong government also featured in the following news outlets: Business Focus, Zamag, no Tcomment, Tech Now, Jinrih, United Daily News Online, ET Net, Cyberctm, TechNow | April 16 |



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| 10 | <a href="#">Letter to the editor: We must prepare businesses for life after lockdown</a>  | April 16 |
| 11 | <a href="#">Letter to the editor: We must keep good businesses going</a>  | April 17 |
| 12 | <a href="#">We must expand and accelerate CBILS support to increase business survival rate amid the coronavirus pandemic says CIMA</a>          | April 22 |
| 13 | <a href="#">"Diverse coalition of voices" write to Chancellor calling for COVID-19 support for 'forgotten' small business and self-employed</a> | April 27 |
| 14 | <a href="#">Media comment: Letting good businesses fail will hurt the UK's recovery</a>   | April 27 |
| 15 | <a href="#">Media comment: Chancellor's announcement is great for micro businesses but doesn't go far enough</a>                                | April 27 |

## Government Inquiries

CIMA is currently participating in the following inquiries

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| UK           | <b>Treasury Committee</b><br>Inquiry: Economic impact of Coronavirus   |
| UK           | <b>BEIS Select Committee</b><br>Inquiry: 2020 Audit Reform Inquiry   |
| EU           | <b>European Commission</b><br>Inquiry: Review of the Non-Financial Reporting Directive.                                  |
| UK           | <b>BEIS Select Committee</b><br>Inquiry: The impact of coronavirus on businesses and workers                             |
| UK           | <b>Education Committee</b><br>Inquiry: The Impact of COVID-19 on education and children's services                       |
| UK           | <b>Institute of Apprenticeship Consultation</b><br>Consultation into Changes to Funding                                  |
| South Africa | <b>Department of Higher Education and Training</b><br>Implementation Evaluation of the National Qualifications Framework |



## Policy asks & wins

CIMA has worked with members to come up with suggestions to government on financial measures that would help with providing immediate cashflow in the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic. More on this can be found in the [Coronavirus SME and Self-Employed Policy Suggestions](#) document. Below we provide an overview of suggested measures.

| Country | Policy Ask   | Policy Win   |
|---------|--|--|
| UK      | Introduce a Coronavirus Micro Business and Self-Employed Loan Scheme   | Introduction of the Bounce Back Loan Scheme. BBLS enables smaller businesses to access finance more quickly during the coronavirus outbreak. |
|         | Provide Premises Relief for Commercial Properties  |  |
|         | Introduce a Temporary Coronavirus Basic Income Grant for the Self-Employed   | Introduction of the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme  |
|         | Reduce VAT by 5% to 15% immediately  |  |
|         | Clearer communication on Coronavirus financial support for consumers, businesses, SMEs, workers and self-employed all in one place | New business advice website has been introduced to provide clearer and easier access to information.   |
|         | Commercial Rent Holidays   | Extra protection introduced for businesses.<br><br>3 months ban on evictions for commercial tenants.   |
|         | Passing on Small Business Rate Relief  |  |
|         | Deferring PAYE and Corporation Tax   |  |
|         | Business Rates Holidays extended to SMEs in all sectors  |  |



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|                     | Electronic correspondence from HMRC and Local Authorities to SMEs and their advisors   |  |
|                     | Allowing dividend money to be taken into account for 'Close Company' businesses for the Coronavirus Job Retention and Coronavirus Self-Employed Income Support Schemes.  |  |
|                     | Changes to Coronavirus Business Interruption Loans – Government to back them 100% for SMEs and interest free for a period of time.   | Introduction of the Bounce Back Loan Scheme. |
|                     | Bank of England to buy all Coronavirus Business Interruption Loans from banks for SME loans plus a margin for the banks to encourage banks to process loans quicker and more effectively.  |  |
|                     | Where companies have sadly failed and are in administration, ensure funds from the Coronavirus job retention scheme goes directly to furloughed workers and not to the hands of administrators.  |  |
|                     | Introducing a phased approach to changing the Coronavirus Job retention scheme with money for furloughed workers slowly being reduced and a focus on getting those jobs back working   |  |
|                     | Allowing accountants support their clients in applying for the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme   |  |
| <b>South Africa</b> | Sole Proprietor Support<br><br>Amendments to the current financial support schemes, allowing sole proprietors access to same level of business support as close corporations.  |  |
|                     | Cash flow improvement measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delaying payment of provisional tax</li> <li>• Delaying payment of provident funds by employers and employees</li> <li>• Offering tax incentives to SMEs who continue to pay rental and salaries in full</li> </ul> |  |



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|                  | Speed and Simplicity in administration of relief measures  |  |
|                  | Access to information for SMEs. Recommended an app be developed for easier access to information   | Development of an app has been announced to provide clearer and easier access to information.  |
|                  | Broaden support according to need - introducing measures to ensure that financial aid is given to those sectors and companies who need it to survive the crisis, rather than universal broad financial support to all companies. |  |
|                  | Online, computer-based assessments<br><br>Request to conduct final assessments for students online   | CIMA has applied for Online assessments to be offered in South Africa.   |
| <b>Hong Kong</b> | Individual income support<br><br>Job creation for those being made redundant. The government may wish to consider introducing plans to hire those being made redundant in part time positions and other available avenues.       | The Government is investing HK\$6 billion to create 30,000 time-limited jobs (up to 12 months) in the public and private sectors in the coming two years for people of different skill sets and academic qualifications.   |
|                  | Broaden financial support according to need  | The package is expanding and becoming more accessible to smaller businesses. Tutor schools, providers of catering services for education institutes, providers of interest group and school bus services for schools, sports coaches, freelance workers, are just some of the directly impacted sectors starting to benefit from the scheme. |
|                  | Education & online learning - engage with technology companies to assist low income students by providing  |  |



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|  | resources and other short-term solutions needed to engage in online learning   |   |
|  | <p>SME Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• extending amount of loan per enterprise from six months to one year for both rent and salaries.</li><li>• encourage the government to use its leverage as a landowner to encourage leaseholders to support lessees through rent concessions or rent holidays for SMEs</li></ul> |   |
|  | Cash flow improvement measures   | The Government has introduced various tax concessionary measures to alleviate the financial burden experienced by individuals and businesses.         |
|  | Speed and Simplicity in administration of relief measures  | The government has acknowledged the need for a simpler application and administration process, so funds and support reach affected businesses faster. |

## VIDEO

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|---------|--|--|
| April 2 |  <p>Samantha Louis<br/>Vice President, International Advocacy</p> <p>CIMA calls on the UK Government to help small business...<br/>Chartered Institute of Management Accountants</p> | <p><a href="#">VP International Advocacy, Samantha Louis, calls on the UK Government to help small businesses and the self-employed.</a></p> |
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