



UK and Global Advocacy Roundup (9 Jul – 3 Aug)

Over the last few months, governments across the world have worked hard to tackle the economic and social challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. During this period, we focused our advocacy efforts on providing governments with constructive ideas for how they could support and help businesses navigate the pandemic and keep cash flowing through the economy. We also focused a lot of our efforts on advocating for SME support with help from our members and volunteer leadership across the world.

As rebuilding becomes the focus and governments chart a course for economic recovery, we are advocating for longer term measures which would support economic growth and increase consumer and business confidence. We believe businesses can help stabilise the economy but need a helping hand from the government to take some uncertainty out of the system.

Introducing the right measures in the form of access to grants and schemes would allow businesses to look ahead with a degree of certainty, rebuild confidence and ultimately help the global economy bounce back.

CIMA Letters to Parliament

CIMA continues to call on Government to put in place measures to drive long term economic recovery from the global pandemic. We are advocating for policies that would rebuild confidence and allow businesses to look ahead with a degree of certainty. We have written to the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Select Committee regarding their ongoing inquiry into Post-Pandemic Growth.

1	UK	CIMA Letter to BEIS Select Committee: Oral Evidence to the Inquiry on Post-Pandemic Economic Growth	July 23
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Advocacy Related Media and Press Activity

(OLDEST TO NEWEST) # Title

Date

	(OLDEST TO NEWEST) # Title	Date
1	Letter to editor: Let's hope the Chancellor is thinking long-term	July 6
2	Letter to the editor: We need a long-term recovery strategy, not a first-aid programme	July 8
3	Andrew Harding, CEO, Management Accounting in the Financial Times. Letter: Chancellor must set out long-term recovery plan	July 13



Government Inquiries

CIMA is currently participating in the following inquiries

UK	Response to the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Select Committee Post-Pandemic Economic Growth super-inquiry
UK	Labour National Policy Forum 2020: Protecting the Natural Environment After Coronavirus
UK	2020 Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR)
UK	HM Treasury – Economic Crime Levy

Consultation responses

CIMA has recently responded to the following consultations

UK	BEIS Select Committee Inquiry post pandemic growth
UK	Labour Party's Green Recovery Consultation
UK	House of Lords EU evidence submission on the future of UK-EU professional and business services
UK	Delivering audit reform
UK	APPG on Apprenticeships: the impact of COVID-19 on apprenticeships and skills

Policy asks & wins

Since the start of the pandemic, CIMA has worked with members to come up with policy suggestions on ways government can help businesses navigate recovery.

On July 1, these suggestions were shared in an open letter to the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson and various Ministers on State and the Shadow Cabinet, a week ahead of the July 8 summer financial statement.

The suggestions outlined in our open letter to Government, cover four key areas:

- providing businesses and consumers with the confidence to invest;
- reducing uncertainty for businesses;
- creating a more sustainable business environment;
- investing in skills to help generate economic growth and improve productivity

Our suggestions to Government are based on evidence on what has previously worked to support economic growth, increase consumer and business confidence and increase productivity.

More on this can be found in the [CIMA Policy Suggestions for UK Economic Recovery](#) document.

Delivering the Summer Economic Update, the Chancellor announced the second phase of his three-phase plan: A plan for jobs: a package of measures introduced to support jobs in every part of the country, give businesses the confidence to retain and hire, and provide people with the tools they need to get better jobs and ultimately secure the UK's economic recovery from coronavirus.



The first stage was a £160 billion support package, which included £49 billion of extra funding for the country's vital public services including the NHS, paying the wages of nearly 12 million people and supporting over a million businesses through grants, loans and rates cuts.

Following this second phase, there will be a third phase focusing on rebuilding, with a Budget and Spending Review in the autumn. This phase will detail further plans to invest in public services, to support innovation and growth-enhancing infrastructure with a National Infrastructure Strategy, to seize global opportunities and to level up opportunity across every region and nation of the UK.

In the meantime, CIMA continues to call on governments across the world to put in place the right measures to help small businesses and the self-employed recover from the global pandemic. Our policy asks will be updated in the coming months as we look forward.

	Country	Advocacy wins
1	UK	<p>The Apprenticeship Levy to be made into an "Apprenticeship and Skills Levy" where levy money can be spent by employers on apprenticeships, but also on recognised continuing professional development for reskilling of the current workforce.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- This policy ask was highlighted in the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Apprenticeships 2019-2020 report. <p>Maintain spending on higher level apprenticeships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- This policy ask was addressed at a meeting with Gillian Keegan, Apprenticeship minister last month. The Apprenticeship minister agreed there was a need to maintain adequate funding for higher level apprenticeships and this was being addressed by the department.
2	UK	<p>Policy suggestions for UK economic recovery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Asks from CIMAs 20-point plan for economic recovery were highlighted by Julie Marson MP at the Economy Debate on 8th July 2020.- Chancellor announced some measures on VAT reduction. However, we will continue to push for improvements to this policy.
3	Ghana	<p>Inquiry to establish ICAG to promote the study of accountancy; to regulate the accountancy profession and practice and to provide for related matters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- CIMA appeared in front of the Ghana Education Committee to address the Institute of Chartered Accountants (ICAG) Bill 2020
4	Ghana	<p>Inquiry to establish ICAG to promote the study of accountancy; to regulate the accountancy profession and practice and to provide for related matters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Built a coalition of support with the big four and ACCA.