

We acknowledge that many businesses may be facing difficulty as a result of COVID-19 or as a result of measures designed to inhibit its spread, but may not meet the criteria of the Strategic Framework Business Fund or other Scottish or UK Government support. Many may be self-employed but not eligible for SEISS; some will not

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PROPERTY, RENT & TAX

You raised the issue of individuals who have signed personal guarantees on their lease and as a consequence, are facing difficulty exiting or renegotiating that arrangement to pursue other opportunities.

I regret that we have no locus to intervene in a commercial agreement between private parties, and at this stage the matter is a legal one rather than a policy one. Professional advice on this issue, including on the specifics of the situation your member described, could be sought from a solicitor. A list of solicitors is available on the Law Society of Scotland website at <https://www.lawscot.org.uk/find-a-solicitor/>.

A Chartered Surveyor could assist in advising and possibly renegotiating the terms of the lease where appropriate. A list of surveyors is available on the Royal Institution of Chartered

The [Individual Training Accounts \(ITA\) Scheme](#) reopened to new applicants on 1 July 2020 to support those who have been affected by the wider impacts of COVID-19 on our economy. The scheme has for many years supported individuals who are unemployed or on low incomes, to train in a number of curriculum areas to improve prospects of gaining employment or progressing in employment. We remain committed to delivering flexible training opportunities that meet the needs of employers and individuals. I acknowledge your point that some of your members may already have accessed this scheme to retrain, but can confirm that the funding of up to £200 is accessible once per year.

LEVEL 4 RESTRICTIONS

Time & Date

We currently expect the Level 4 restrictions, announced by the First Minister on Tuesday 17 November and which came into effect at 18:00 hours on Friday 20 November, to be lifted by 18:00 on Friday 11 December, however th-54(1)23(1)23()31(4)23()48(rs)- nBT/F9 jnBT/F9 jnBT/F9 j

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