



Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London
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10th July 2020

Dear Chancellor,

I am writing to you following your economic statement this week to express my disappointment that once again the plight of the many hundreds thousands of workers excluded from the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) and the Self Employed Income Support Scheme (SEISS) has been ignored.

You began your speech by declaring that “nobody will be left without hope”, but these workers have been left with no support and no hope for months. You are aware that my union has strongly supported the CJRS and SEISS and that we believe that they are generous schemes for those included, but that is cold comfort for those that miss out on support altogether.

Many of these workers, especially in industries that are seasonal like many of the creative industries represented by our Bectu sector, have effectively missed a whole year of income and now face a long period of underemployment as their industries slowly recover. Our latest survey of members working in the film and TV sectors for example found that even by June 2021 only half expect to have returned to usual levels of work.

It cannot be right that while so much public money is rightly invested in retained permanent employees, the army of freelancers and self-employed who are not covered by the schemes are left with nothing.

You know that we have suggested technical solutions to the design of the CJRS and SEISS schemes to your officials which would have provided support to these groups. We believe it is still not too late to act on these suggestions. However if you remain convinced that these are unworkable then we would urge you to explore other creative ways of compensating these groups, for example through direct grants or through the tax system.

We have made it so far through this crisis by working together – business, unions, the voluntary sector and government. This spirit of social partnership has been about providing the broadest shoulders to carry people through these difficult times. That same approach needs to be extended to freelancers and self-employed workers who are currently left behind.

We would be happy to engage with officials on any proposals to provide support to a cohort of workers that are becoming increasingly desperate. I look forward to your answer and ask once again that you act now to avert irreparable damage to personal finances and to our economy.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Clancy **General Secretary**

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