



Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
HM Treasury  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

7<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Chancellor,

I am writing on behalf of thousands of Prospect members facing redundancy to urge you to reconsider the decision not to offer temporary and sectoral extensions to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme in order to preserve viable jobs.

I understand the need to gradually wind down the CJRS for the majority of the economy as normal economic activity resumes, however it is increasingly obvious that for sectors that either are unable to open or that are particularly adversely affected by the need for social distancing, the removal of the access to furlough is a charter for mass redundancies.

For theatre workers, represented by our Bectu sector, we are aware of around 5,000 anticipated redundancies as the CJRS winds down, and theatres still have no certainty about when they will be able to open and start bringing in income. These are viable jobs, with a skilled and dedicated workforce, it makes no economic sense to precipitate redundancies in this way. Likewise at the National Trust hundreds of staff are being made redundant whose jobs are perfectly viable as soon as social distancing measures relax. Workers in aviation are facing a similar economic outlook.

The redundancy figures coming in now from these sectors demonstrate that the Job Retention Bonus is an ineffective measure for retaining these jobs, and risks distributing resources to precisely where they are needed the least in the economy. Instead these resources could be directed at sectors such as the creative industries, heritage, live, events, and aviation in which a few additional months of furlough provision, with no employer contribution, would save thousands of jobs and leave the sectors in a good position recover once the pandemic has abated.

The imminent wave of unemployment facing some of the most productive sectors of our economy is entirely avoidable, and action to avert it is eminently affordable, and makes undeniable economic sense in the medium and long term.

I am urging again to reconsider the end of the furlough and commit the resources needed now to safeguard jobs, skills, livelihoods for an additional few months until more of the economy can reopen safely.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Clancy

**General Secretary**

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