

ELLIOT COLBURN MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
The Correspondence & Enquiry unit
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

1 March 2021

Our Ref: EC11344

Dear Rishi,

RE: Support for the Personal Care Sector

I write on behalf of several local personal care businesses in Carshalton and Wallington, as well as the National Hair and Beauty Federation (NHBF), who have met with me today to discuss their concerns that many businesses are at risk of closure without further financial support.

I know that you would agree with me that the personal care sector plays an essential role in our communities and our high streets, but with over 140 days of lockdown closure just in 2020, many local businesses have seen their cash flows severely impacted. According to the NHBF, owners of hair and beauty businesses took an average cash hit of £17,000 in 2020, with those over the VAT threshold suffering disproportionately. Local hair and beauty business owners shared this concern, as well as voicing the overhead costs that still have to be paid throughout ongoing closures.

While the sector is delighted to have received such a clear roadmap to reopening, it is feared that without support in the meantime, many businesses will not survive to reopen in April. Specifically, in the Budget announced this Wednesday, local hair and beauty businesses and the NHBF would like to see:

1. A reduction in VAT to support the sector as they continue to pay overhead costs.
2. A personal care crisis fund to support the immediate cashflow crisis facing the sector, to support businesses as they begin to reopen

The personal care sector has worked tirelessly to ensure their premises are COVID-secure for when customers are able to return. It is vital that specific support is made available to ensure these vital community businesses are here to stay.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Elliot Colburn'.

Elliot Colburn

Conservative Member of Parliament for Carshalton and Wallington

Serving the people of Carshalton and Wallington

Tel: 020 7219 5862

E-mail: info@elliotcolburn.co.uk

