



Dr Deborah Long
Chief Officer
Scottish Environment LINK
13 Marshall Place
PERTH
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31st July 2020

Dear Deborah,

Thank you very much for inviting me to your virtual workshop earlier this month. I found the discussion with you and your members very helpful and insightful. It is important to me and my office to engage widely on these crucial aspects of government support.

The issues raised by yourself and your members are very important to us. These are very difficult and testing times and all through the crisis this government has very carefully listened to concerns raised about the support package. This has led to additions, changes and improvements to the support that we are offering. I would like to thank you for taking the time to set out your detailed concerns about the economic support packages from both governments.

You highlighted specific issues around the duration of the job retention scheme, additional funding and VAT. You will have heard the Chancellor saying that the furlough scheme was always meant to be a temporary support measure. The initial end date was July and we have already extended the scheme to the end of October given the economic circumstances.

I understand that you have particular worries about the charitable sector and I have asked my officials to share your detailed letter with the Treasury. This will allow the department with the policy responsibility for these support measures to consider the evidence you have set out in great detail.

I hope you find this response helpful and I look forward to meeting you and your members again to continue our conversation.

Yours Sincerely,

IAIN STEWART MP
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SCOTLAND