

PETER GIBSON MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

June 2020

Dear Constituent

Thank you for your email.

The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme was designed to ensure that employers were able to keep millions of workers on payroll avoiding mass redundancies. This has enabled workers to stay at home and lower the rate of infection, protecting our NHS from being overwhelmed.

While over six million workers have been placed on furlough, many millions have continued to work during lockdown. Everyone who is working is playing a vital role in helping support our response to the crisis by keeping the economy moving. While those in many sectors may not be directly involved in the crisis response, by keeping the economy going they are helping to pay for the Government's response.

Given the unprecedented economic context and the challenges facing the UK economy, we will take stock of the economy and public finances as we exit the current crisis and make the right decisions at that point. It is premature to speculate about future public finances, budgets and the economy. We are thinking first and foremost about protecting people's health, their jobs and supporting businesses. The Office of Budget Responsibility and the Bank of England have said if we did not do what we are doing today the costs in the future would be far higher.

As with all aspects of Government policy, we will keep tax rates and spending under review, and any decisions on future changes will be taken as part of the annual Budget process in the context of the wider public finances.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to contact me and if I can ever be any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Gibson

PETER GIBSON MP

Member of Parliament for Darlington

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