

PETER GIBSON MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

September 2020

Dear Constance

Thank you for your email about an extension to the Job Retention Scheme.

I welcomed the Chancellor's announcement on 12 May 2020 that the Scheme would continue until the end of October, with new flexibility introduced from August to get employees back to work. This included furloughed workers being able to return to work on a part-time basis, with employers being asked to pay a percentage towards the salaries of furloughed staff. Furthermore, recent statistics indicate that the CJRS has so far protected over 12,300 workers in Darlington. This scheme alone made funds of up to £184 million available to the furloughed employees of Darlington. This extension was a crucial step in supporting employees and businesses during the current pandemic, and I fully support the measures taken to encourage workers to return to work at the appropriate time.

I have spoken with colleagues at the Treasury to raise the points you have made, however I feel that although the initial extensions were timely and necessary in the context of this crisis, a further extension would delay our economic recovery and cause untold damage to livelihoods by preventing the economy returning to full speed.

As I outlined in the House of Commons last week, the people of Darlington are thankful for the unprecedented level of support provided during the pandemic. These measures have been truly extraordinary, but this emergency safety net needs to come to an end. I know, and the hard-working people of Darlington know, that we need to get back to standing on our own two feet.

We have protected the NHS, we have supported our employees and we have cradled our businesses, but we need to move forward, creating jobs and levelling up on investment in places such as Darlington to truly unlock the potential that the North-East has.

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,
Peter Gibson

PETER GIBSON MP

Member of Parliament for Darlington

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