

Dear *MP Name*,

I am a self employed photographer and resident in your constituency. My business has been successfully operating since *X date*. This year my business had *£X* of booked and confirmed wedding photography bookings to December 2020.

Since the coronavirus crises and social distancing measures, those wedding photography bookings have now either been cancelled, or postponed. My business income has gone from a projected income of *£X down to £X*.

The latest scientific committee advice suggests that social distancing measures could be in place until the end of the year. This means that I am highly unlikely to take bookings, and earn money to pay myself and keep my business afloat until they are lifted. I fully understand the importance of these measures and I am happy to comply, but they will have a devastating impact on my business.

As it stands the UK wedding industry is worth £10 billion a year - largely made up of self employed and small businesses. Our businesses will not survive inactivity for 10 months. The financial measures announced on Friday 20th March are insufficient and unbalanced in comparison to employed people.

In order for me to take bookings for the next wedding season, I will need to keep marketing my business and investing in it. I cannot do this if there isn't any money to pay my household bills and feed my family. I want to work, and I want my business to still be intact on the other side of this crisis. But that cannot happen without a continuous cash flow.

I am writing this letter to urge that you act on my behalf to insist that the Government goes further to introducing measures to support the self-employed, small and micro-businesses. That support must be fast, accessible to all sizes of business, and include both the self-employed and businesses operating from non-rateable properties not currently covered by the Governments Grant's schemes. The Government should urgently consider the case for extending government cash grants to small and micro-business that do not operate from rateable properties. In the very least we want to be equally accounted for and included in the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.

Our contribution to the UK economy is significant and equal to that of our employed peers.

Yours Sincerely,

*Your name*

*Your postal address*

*Your telephone number*