



April 27 2020

**LETTER TO THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER SUPPORTING THE
'NATIONAL TIME OUT ' CAMPAIGN**

Dear Mr Sunak,

We are writing to support the National Time Out proposal presented to you by the Chief Executive of UKHospitality and leaders of the national hospitality brands in the UK, and also on behalf of the many thousands of hospitality, tourism and and leisure businesses both large and small that make up the back bone of the SW economy. Collectively they employ tens of thousands of people here in the SW with permanent and seasonal work. We wish to present this letter to you and your office and colleagues within Central Government for consideration.

We fully support this campaign that will not cost the taxpayer anything but will enable those in the hospitality sector to survive the COVID 19 pandemic, which will by virtue of the necessary control measures imposed by Government, impact that sector for the longest.

We recognise the generosity of the CBILS, furlough and the RHLG funds but these will not sustain those businesses where the lockdown is likely to affect them for much longer than 3 months. This of course wipes out an entire summer season for many of our businesses here in the South West upon which they rely to remain viable.

Please would you consider and act on the National Time Out proposal that asks for an immediate nine month rent payment freeze for tenants, in conjunction with a mortgage payments / loan repayment holiday for landlords; both charges would be added to the end of the lease period by means of a lease extension.

The retail, hospitality and leisure sector is vital to the SW economy and must be protected at all costs. The RHLG scheme for all those businesses with a rateable value below £51,000 is hugely beneficial to our many SME hospitality businesses but does not help the larger tourist / retail and leisure attractions that generate substantial inward investment and employment to our towns and cities. We would ask that these larger businesses should be included in the RHLG scheme.

As a representative body for 17 Business Improvement Districts across the SW region we urge you to support the National Time Out scheme and save the many businesses and jobs that maintain and sustain such a large percentage of our population and communities.

Yours sincerely



Richard Wilcox

Chair of SW BIDs - a group representing 17 BIDs across Devon, Cornwall and Somerset and over 4,000 businesses

The South West BIDs Group:

