**Supporting Tourism in the 2021 Budget**

I am writing to you because my business has been particularly impacted by Coronavirus. Indeed, the National Tourism Board (VisitBritain) confirms that tourism businesses like mine have collectively lost a staggering £75bn in revenue last year.

While the vaccine rollout is a light at the end of the tunnel, it is certain that business like mine will continue to suffer from social distancing and travel restrictions for some considerable time. VisitBritain’s forecast for tourism in 2021 is that while revenue will increase, we will lose another £48bn this year.

I am therefore asking for your support to help businesses like mine survive until we can properly open our doors again, welcome back customers and rebuild the local economy. The Budget is crucial not just to me, but to all the other local tourism businesses in this constituency. If we are able to get the support we need, we will be able to stay afloat, retain our staff and attract visitors back to the area when the time is right.

I have three requests:

**1. Retain the 5% VAT Rate for 2021 and Expand it to Help Pubs**

The cut in VAT was a lifeline last year but its use has been limited with many businesses closed since November. It makes little sense to end the cut on 1 April just as we hope to reopen. And if we want pubs to survive, it needs to be applied to on-premises alcohol sales as well.

**2. Extend Business Rate Relief and Reform Business Rates**

Business rates is one of the key costs of tourism businesses and extending the 100% Business Rates Relief scheme for 2021/22 is critical to helping us recover and rebuild. This relief also needs to help crucial components of our sector such as coach and tour operators, contract caterers, language schools and event organisers and suppliers. Even more importantly, the whole Business Rates system needs to be reformed as it is killing our town centres by placing a disproportionate burden on premises-bases businesses.

**3. Retain Furlough for Businesses Impacted by Social Distancing or Travel Restrictions**

The CJRS has allowed me to retain many staff that I would otherwise have been forced to make redundant, and I am hugely grateful for it. But as long as there are significant restrictions on our operation, we need help to keep people employed.

Could I urge you to ask the Chancellor to help us so that we can help in rebuilding our local economy and local community. I am very proud of my business and want to play my part in building back better.

Thank you in anticipation for your continued support.