



Chair of Development: Alastair Cooper

Town Hall
Lerwick, Shetland
ZE1 0HB

Mr Rishi Sunak
Chancellor of the Exchequer
c/o CEU.enquiries@hmtreasury.gov.uk

Telephone: 01595 744505

www.shetland.gov.uk

If calling please ask for
Alastair Cooper
Direct Dial: 01595 744544
Email:
membersupport@shetland.gov.uk

Our Ref: AC/NG
Your Ref:

Date: 25 March 2020

Dear Mr Sunak

Help for the Self-employed

I am writing to request that you do not delay in confirming financial support measures for the self-employed. Through the Job Retention Scheme you have addressed challenges for the employed workforce. They now have hope of retention of income and their jobs during the COVID-19 outbreak.

In Shetland we have a high proportion of people who are self-employed and who are now very worried about what the immediate future holds for them.

Chancellor, I urge you to address this situation urgently to support self-employed incomes in same manner you have done for the employed.

I welcome the strong measures taken by the UK Government to control the spread of COVID-19 and the Shetland community is playing its part.

Life in Shetland is challenging. The cost of living in Shetland is at least 30% higher on mainland Shetland than central Scotland and in the outer isles it can rise to 60% higher.

In this context, and put quite simply, the self-employed individuals in Shetland do not have the financial resources to see them through the days ahead. I implore you to take action and introduce a scheme of support.

Yours Sincerely

Alastair Cooper
Chairman Development Committee, Shetland Islands Council