

Ken Skates AS/MS  
Gweinidog yr Economi, Trafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru  
Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref WQ81502

Janet Finch-Saunders MS  
Member of the Senedd for Aberconwy

Janet.Finch-Saunders@Senedd.Wales

24 November 2020

Dear Janet

Your Written Question (WQ81502) tabled on 11 November in respect of support for selfemployed taxi drivers refers.

The Welsh Government recognises the incredibly difficult and uncertain circumstances currently being experienced by businesses and individuals. We are absolutely committed to providing the support and assurance the business community needs.

Our £200m Lockdown Business Fund includes a now £25 million discretionary grant fund element provided to local authorities to support the likes of sole traders - some of which are taxi drivers. Alternatively, if taxi drivers have a small business rateable property they could access the NDR based lockdown grants. The NDR grants element of our Lockdown Business Fund closed at 5pm on 20 November but the £25 million discretionary grant fund element of the Fund remains open:

<https://businesswales.gov.wales/coronavirus-advice/lockdown-business-fund>

Our packages have been designed to be affordable within the available funding and we had to take difficult decisions on the eligibility criteria. The measures we have taken are in addition to those provided by the UK Government, making the support package in Wales the most comprehensive and generous in the UK.

We will also go on pressing the UK Government to be responsive and responsible in terms of supporting those who continue to fall through the gaps, who have yet to receive the support that is absolutely required in order to ensure that their enterprises can survive this pandemic.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

[Gohebiaeth.Ken.Skates@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Ken.Skates@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Ken.Skates@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Ken.Skates@gov.wales)

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

To that end, an extra £5 million has been provided to the Discretionary Assistance Fund which provides grants to people in need of urgent help during the crisis, including those waiting for benefit payments and those in employment who are facing hardship:  
<https://gov.wales/discretionary-assistance-fund-daf>

I have also asked my officials to consider other ways to support the industry and specifically in relation to reducing the risks of transmission of the virus.

I encourage any business affected to contact Business Wales for advice.

<https://businesswales.gov.wales/coronavirus-advice/lockdown-business-fund>

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Skates', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

**Ken Skates AS/MS**

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