



Kwasi Kwarteng  
Secretary of State at the  
Department of Business,  
Energy and Industrial Strategy  
1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0ET  
United Kingdom

4 May 2021

Dear Secretary of State,

**RE: Commercial Laundry Industry – Government Support**

I draw your attention to a statement that our members are receiving every time they apply to their Council for any form of rate relief or grant support.

“I understand your position and frustration. However, in the guidance that was issued by the Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, your business does not fall into a qualifying category”

This time it's the re-start grants. Before that it was the lockdown grants. And the VAT reduction. And the business rates relief. Every time, we get ignored, and we get nothing.

All the Councils agree hospitality laundries have been forced to close. They all agree we should get the grant. They all agree it's unfair that we don't get any support. But then they've agreed we should have been included in every piece of financial support that other businesses have been offered. But sympathy is all we get. There has been no money forthcoming, the hospitality laundries are always left out.

Until someone in BEIS is brave enough to accept they have got it wrong, the commercial laundry industry will not get the support it deserves and so desperately needs.

We've been turned down time and time again. We've been hung out to dry.

So, now we need an audience with a decision maker in BEIS so that, at the very least, they can explain why we've been singled out for no help from government. Then I can inform the industry as to why we have been excluded.

Without the hundreds of commercial laundries serving hospitality, and the 24,000 laundry operatives they employ, UK hospitality will not be able to operate on 17th May. Hotels, restaurants, sports facilities and many other businesses rely on commercial laundries.

How can you expect laundries to survive without any support when other sectors have received £billions in grants, VAT reductions and rate relief.

Give us support. Please. If not, then at least give us an explanation.

Yours sincerely,

David Stevens,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Stevens', written in a cursive style.

**Chief Executive Officer**  
M 07966 531954