



To: XXXXXXXX  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Dear XXXXXXXX,

I am writing to you in your position as XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX.

The Automatic Vending Association (AVA) is the trade association of the vending industry, representing machine and ingredient manufacturers and suppliers, cup manufacturers and vending machine operating companies throughout the United Kingdom.

The UK vending and unattended retail industry has an annual turnover of £1.6bn. It is an industry employing 24,500 people directly, which is supplemented by those employed within the wider retail supply chain. AVA members operate over 460,000 automated retail/vending machines, supplying food, soft drinks, water coolers, hot and cold beverages and snacks in addition to running on site micro-markets.

Vending Operator companies, those who provide, fill and maintain vending machines, are, with one or two exceptions, small or medium sized enterprises, often family owned.

Most of our Operator members provide their services in the Business & Industry sector, which has been significantly negatively impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak. With almost 70% of the operating workforce now on furlough, current cashflow and future survival of these SME's is in doubt.

These are companies which are running a series of remote retailing units from a central point – effectively small “shops”, yet when they have made applications for a business rates holiday as set out in Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government “Expanded Retail Discount 2020/21” document some are being told that they are not eligible.

For the removal of doubt and variability of implementation we would ask that Vending Operation is included in the next revision of the properties which should benefit from relief.

I have no doubt you are currently exceptionally busy, but it would also help if, as XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX, you were able to facilitate this clarification for the automated retail sector.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

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

David Llewellyn  
Chief Executive