

An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin TD,
Government Buildings
Merrion Street
Dublin 2

22 November 2021

Re: Covid support measures for the Experience Economy

Dear Taoiseach,

I am writing to you in relation to the ongoing Government supports now required to preserve enterprises and employment as a result of the latest public health guidelines impacting on the Experience Economy. It is clear from the feedback we have received in recent days from our members that the public are heeding the public health messaging from Government and are adjusting behaviours, including reducing social contacts. We hope that this response will help address the most recent spike in Covid cases and reduce the pressure on our health system.


Reduced socialising will also, however, have a damaging impact on the thousands of businesses in the Experience Economy which had only just begun to feel the benefits of recovery. The impact of the latest restrictions will be particularly damaging for these firms as it comes as we enter the crucial Christmas period during which such a high share of annual revenue is earned in the Experience Economy. We know from the previous Covid waves, the measures that will work to help sustain this vital part of the economy and we ask you to again apply these supports in full.

Specifically, we are recommending:

- that the €4 bn contingency fund identified in Budget 2022 is allocated as soon as necessary to provide continuity in fiscal support for businesses which remain impacted by Covid 19
- extension of the Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme beyond April 2022 as this remains the single most effective fiscal support measure for businesses and maintenance of the payment level at the rates which applied in the previous Covid waves
- Targeted extension of the commercial rates waiver for businesses impacted by Covid restrictions into 2022
- Revenue continues to take a reasonable position on debt warehousing and extends timelines to reflect any extension of restrictions – so Period 1 end date moves from 31 December 2021 to April 30 2022 and pro-rata on Period 2 and 3.
- Extension of the Covid Restrictions Support Scheme (CRSS) for those businesses again impacted by the latest public health restrictions
- Delivering ongoing low cost and long maturity State backed loan schemes in order to ensure that firms seeking to recover post Covid are not hindered by significant and unsustainable debt burdens.

We continue to acknowledge the successful nature of the supports provided for business and employees by Government over the course of this crisis and we urge you to continue to ensure that these measures are fully deployed over the coming period.

Yours sincerely,



Danny McCoy
CEO

CC: Leo Varadkar, Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment
Minister Eamon Ryan, Department Climate Action, Communication Networks and Transport
Minister Paschal Donohoe, Department for Finance
Minister Michael McGrath, Department for Public Expenditure and Reform
Minister Heather Humphreys, Department for Social Protection
Minister Catherine Martin, Department for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media