

First Minister, Carwyn Jones  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CF991NA

May 2014

Dear First Minister and Cabinet,

I write to set out our concerns regarding the burden of business rates on small businesses in Wales. Business rates are a huge burden on small businesses, which are the lifeblood of the Welsh economy, accounting for 99% of the Welsh business stock. Business rate support would allow small businesses to focus on expanding and training staff and on improving their business.

### Small Business Rate Relief (SBRR)

The Small Business Rate Relief scheme has been vital to small businesses across Wales. Properties with a rateable value of £6,000 or less are eligible for 100% relief. The rate of relief decreases from 100% to 0% for properties with a rateable value between £6,001 and £12,000. Whilst we recognise that the SBRR scheme has been extended in Wales until March 2015 we believe that the scheme must go further.

We are calling on the Welsh Government to extend SBRR and abolish business rates for small businesses with a rateable value of up to £12,000, and tapered relief for those up to £15,000.

The vast majority of small business premises would be helped by this extension with 73 per cent of business premises being taken out of rates altogether and a further 5 per cent benefiting from tapered relief.

Whilst we recognise that the Welsh Government has announced a range of schemes relating to business rates, extending SBRR is a simple and effective way of supporting Welsh SMEs.

**We call on the Welsh Government to provide this support to aid small businesses across Wales.**

Yours sincerely,

Driscoll's Greengrocers  
Fairwater Green,  
Cardiff

Sharon Whitehouse  
Utopia Hair and Beauty Salon and  
Training Academy  
Narberth, Pembrokeshire

La Nouba Coffee House Waungron  
Road,  
Llandaff, Cardiff

REG-FUTURE  
CARDIFF BAY  
21A BOUTIQUE

Gordon Baum  
NARBERTH  
CHAMBER OF TRADE

Huggub  
Beautiful Lily

Alan Edwards  
Newport Chamber of  
Trade

A. Paswell  
Cafe Cotech

Chris Mackenzie-Grieve  
Aberystwyth Chamber of  
Commerce

EWM Associates  
Mr Miah, Newport

Ruthin Chamber of Commerce  
Elwyn Edwards

Stitchwitch  
Julie Parry

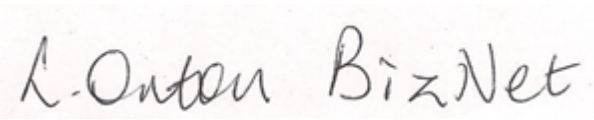
Howard Jones Accountancy  
Newport

Leonard Hancock Hairdressers,  
Newport  
M Hancock

Summerton Stores,  
Newport  
Mr Bajwo

The Ship Inn, Raglan  
Tracy and Stuart

The Bed Shop  
Mr Steve Hopkins



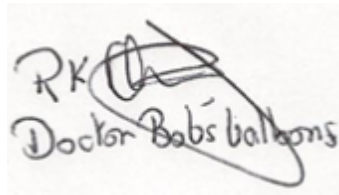
Tom Learmonth

Bonkers Fashion of Haverfordwest  
Lorraine Jefferies

Lawrence Lyons Exclusive  
Kitchens  
John Calleja

Emrys Art Supplies Ltd

Mid Wales Art Centre  
Cathy Evans,



Leisure Quest, Swansea  
Jill Evans

Martin Jones

la Baguette Du Jour. Swansea

Marlene Meadon

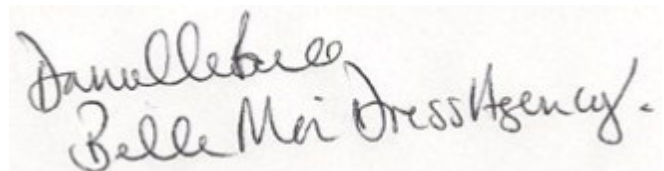
Vaughan Davies  
Outfitters

Flaven Leather Ltd  
Mary Tudor

Mid Wales Removals  
Mark Roberts

Victoria Bridal, Swansea  
Gillian Jenkins

Crusts, Swansea  
Tony George



Fruit & Veg retail  
Kevin O'Connell

Moustache, Swansea  
Godfrey Doolan

JB Owens, Tywyn,  
Gwynedd

Harold Owen China

MonTeas

Bob Hawke

Oakfield Mini-mart,  
Croeswen

Norma Rowlands

Monmouthshire

David Tovey

*Ed Barnett* Cambridge Made

Mindee Convenience Store

Mrs S Singh Newport

UK Ship Stores & Logistics Ltd

Robert Hamilton

Pembrokeshire Foods Ltd

PJ&SE George of Pembs Foods

Anchor Guesthouse in Broad Haven

Helen Parry and Ian Beach

Green Warmth Ltd.

Michele Bromley

*Reahorn Automatics*

*& Amusements*

*Linda Reahorn*

PhysioFitWestWales

Jeroen Bruins

*P.A. SAMBARINI*  
OFFICE VISIONS LTD

*Firwood Timber Frame*

*Mike Edds*

Victoria Bookshop Ltd

Marley Davies

*DIANED SUGARMAN - GO COMMERCIAL FINANCE LTD.*

*Rolf Hill Johnson*

*Edwards Bros, The Garage*

*Robert Edwards*

Musicians World Ltd

Lee Rees

*Ernie Barker The 3D Crystal Company.*

Ferry Inn, AEH Baker Ltd

Liz and Andy Baker

*Euro Spa*

*Chris Ward*

Hill Street Laundry

Jacqui Phillips

Angharad Reid Consultancy Ltd.

Angharad Reid

The Webley Hotel

Simon Regan

*Douglas Slaz*  
Vice Chairman Residential Landlords Association.

The Pembrokeshire Beer company Ltd, The Cambrian Inn

Jeremy Barton

*John Davis*

*JOHN DAVIS - Clifton Nash Ltd*

*Seasons Ladies Wear*

*Resie Adams*

Pembrokeshire Building & Plumbing Supplies Ltd

Elizabeth Taylor

**The Albion Ale House, Conwy**

**Stuart Chapman**

PJ George Commercials

PJ George

The Ark

Lise Matthews

Kershaw Engineers

Mario Rabiotti

OAKFIELD HOTEL, CROESWEN

MR & MRS DAVIES