



Supporting the hair, beauty  
and barbering industries

Rt. Hon Alok Sharma MP  
Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy  
1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0ET

11 May 2020

Dear Alok

Further to our roundtable meeting with you on Saturday 25 April, I am writing to you to stress the need for absolute clarity from government that any future guidance for the hair and beauty industry applies to the sector as a whole. This includes salons with premises, home-based salons, mobile or freelance stylists, barbers and therapists who work outside salons, for example in care homes and private households or on photoshoots.

**The NHBF would stress that the same restrictions must apply to everyone working in hair and beauty, regardless of whether they are working in salons or non-salon settings.**

Clear messaging on this matter is of absolute importance in order to demonstrate that each of these types of business plays an equal role in reducing the risk of spreading COVID-19 and ensuring the safety of themselves, their clients and those they interact with.

#### **Public messaging and enforcement**

We would implore the government to send a strong message to the public that they should not be asking hairdressers, barbers and beauty therapists to come into their home or vice versa. Without demand, those few within the industry who are irresponsibly flouting the current rules, would not be doing it. A statement from yourself or other ministerial colleagues would be hugely beneficial in addressing this as well as clear and visible enforcement of the current restrictions.

We call for strong and effective enforcement measures for hairdressers, barbers or beauty therapists found breaking the rules. The longer the lockdown measures place restrictions on the hair and beauty industry returning to work, the more likely it is that we will see people within the industry and members of the public becoming non-compliant. We must have strong deterrents to prevent this from undermining all the hard work that reputable businesses and responsible members of the public have put into the battle against COVID-19.

#### **PPE**

As I'm sure you are aware, current uncertainty is hugely worrying for the thousands of hair and beauty businesses throughout the UK. Because it is not possible to work in hairdressing, barbering and beauty therapy without being in physical contact with clients,

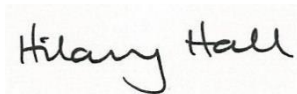
information and guidance on personal protective equipment is urgently needed. We are, of course, very willing to continue working with colleagues in BEIS to help them develop sector-specific guidance. This needs to happen rapidly to give businesses sufficient lead-in time to source appropriate supplies as well as plan for re-opening.

### **Financial support**

Lastly, the hair and beauty sector, along with many other sectors, has been grateful for the government support measures such as the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme in order to survive the current crisis. Until the hair and beauty industry can re-open it is vital that those support measures continue in full, including for the self-employed. Once lockdown measures start to ease and the hair and beauty industry can start trading again, we stress the need for gradual pay and grant reductions, flexibility in the furlough scheme, capped interest rates and repayments based on income and profits on loans.

I would be happy to speak with you in more detail on any of the above and would appreciate your comments and clarification on the matters raised as soon as you are able.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hilary Hall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a loop at the end of the last name.

Hilary Hall  
Chief Executive  
National Hair & Beauty Federation