



Oifig an tAire Gnó, Fiontar agus Nuálaíochta
Office of the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation

**Our Ref: 200187/MIN
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/SApril 2020

Mr. Ian Talbot
Chief Executive
Chambers Ireland
11 Stephens Green
Dublin 2

Dear Ian

Thank you for your correspondence dated the 13th March 2020.

The recent Chambers Ireland COVID-19 Business Impact Survey highlighted the extraordinary difficulties companies are currently facing.

You are aware from our recent engagements at the Enterprise Forum, that I have been working with my colleagues across Government to put in place an effective portfolio of supports to assist firms in responding to the immediate and critical financial pressures which the pandemic has created for them.

Last week I announced a major expansion of supports for all businesses impacted by COVID-19. The package is now worth €1 billion in liquidity measures including a new €180m Sustaining Enterprise Fund for firms in the manufacturing and international services sectors. The supports also include an additional €30m for microenterprises through the 31 Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) comprising additional funding for Microfinance Ireland and Trading Online Grants for those businesses that are in a position to do business online while complying with the public health guidelines.

This package is a significant step-up in the supports available for all businesses in all sectors at this very difficult time. The measures have been developed to meet the varying needs of Irish enterprise and they are very specifically targeted by size, sector and need.

With this in mind, I wanted to highlight to you that the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation website provides a useful portal to access details on the range of business

supports available. You may find it useful to direct the Chamber network and its members to our website www.dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Supports-for-SMEs/COVID-19-supports/Government-supports-to-COVID-19-impacted-businesses for the latest information and updates.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Heather', followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that ends in a small loop.

Heather Humphreys T.D.
Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation

cc Ms Emma Kerins, Head of Policy and Public Affairs, Chambers Ireland