

Dear Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Mr Grant Shapps, Chancellor Rishi Sunak, Mrs Priti Patel, and cabinet colleagues,

As you are no doubt aware, the UK travel industry continues to be devastated by the Covid crisis.

In November, Abta estimated the number of people in travel who have been made redundant or placed at risk of redundancy as a result of the pandemic had increased to 164,000 from around 90,000 in August. This figure will only have increased further since.

January, which is usually the busiest time of the year for travel's SMEs, including thousands of travel agents and tour operators, has been dominated by headlines from government ministers urging the British public not to book a summer holiday, depressing an already fragile market.

News that quarantine hotels are now going to be introduced could be the final death knell for summer bookings.

The travel industry is hugely supportive of measures to stop the spread of the virus, and fully accepts drastic action must be taken to protect the lives of the public.

But 11 months into this crisis and the industry remains effectively closed down, with zero dedicated financial support.

The UK travel industry – including both the outbound leisure and business travel sectors, worth an estimated £37.1bn to the UK economy; and the inbound sector, worth an estimated £28bn to the UK economy – is calling on you to recognise the urgent plight of this sector.

For much of last year, travel businesses were unable to fully utilise the furlough scheme as staff were needed to process the thousands of customer refunds.

Business for much of the sector remains at a standstill. The industry now needs dedicated help from government.



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The #SaveTravel manifesto, led by TTG Media, is urging government to publish a roadmap out of this crisis, and for ministers to:

Give more regular updates to the industry – The sector is too often left in the dark about decisions such as airport testing or hotel quarantine. It needs firmer guidance and more regular updates so businesses are able to plan accordingly

Re-establish a travel taskforce, this time with representation from industry bodies. We are also calling for greater collaboration across the government departments, including the Home Office and the Treasury, as well as the Department for Transport.

Commit to dedicated financial support for the travel industry, including an extended furlough scheme tailored for travel, if it is unable to restart. The government has effectively shut an entire sector down, with zero dedicated financial help. Thousands of jobs are going to be lost without it – this isn't a prediction, it's a fact.

The travel sector is all too aware of the pressures and complexities of the crisis facing this country, and wants to do all it can to help protect British citizens.

But right now an entire sector is facing a catastrophic future, unless urgent help is provided. The travel industry is urging you to consider these three measures to help ensure its survival.

Yours sincerely,
TTG Media and the #SaveTravel campaign



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