



HM Treasury

The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London SW1A 2HQ

Jim Harra
First Permanent Secretary and Chief Executive
HM Revenue and Customs
100 Parliament Street
London SW1A 2BQ

7 July 2020

Dear Jim

EAT OUT TO HELP OUT SCHEME

Thank you for your letter dated 7 July 2020, relating to the introduction of the Eat Out to Help Out Scheme (EOHOS). I have considered the contents of your letter carefully.

I recognise the Managing Public Money issues that this proposal causes for you as the Principal Accounting Officer. However, as you set out in your letter to me, there are broader issues that I am able to weigh in my decision that you are not able to accommodate in your own assessment.

As you highlight in your letter, there are clearly compelling reasons to justify the introduction of this scheme, which fall outside the confines of MPM. These are extraordinary economic circumstances and businesses in the hospitality sector have been severely impacted by COVID-19 due to closures and the impact of social-distancing. The Government is concerned that following lockdown restaurants and cafes are likely to see lower demand than usual, even as concerns about the safety of going out for a meal or a coffee gradually fall away. Now that establishments have re-opened their sit-down services in line with social distancing guidance, the time is right for people to experience going out again. The EOHOS scheme will incentivise consumer use of restaurants and other such establishments, thereby helping to restore consumer confidence in around 129,000 businesses, including the over 85% of pubs that serve food, in a sector that is a major employer, supporting 1.8 million jobs disproportionately occupied by workers who are young, female and BAME.

I am therefore formally directing you as Accounting Officer to take forward this scheme with immediate effect, managing the identified risks as best you can.

In line with the usual process for ministerial directions, I am also copying this letter to the Comptroller and Auditor General (who will inform the Public Accounts Committee) and the Treasury Officer of Accounts.

THE RT HON RISHI SUNAK MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer

