



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

Job Retention Bonus

Thank you for your letter dated 7 July 2020, relating to the introduction of the Job Retention Bonus. 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. Following the end of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme in October, the Job Retention Bonus will play a vital role in supporting employers to bring their furloughed staff back to work to protect jobs and help support the economic recovery. Without such action, jobs will be at acute risk.

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

