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Dear Sirs

I have, with my partner, run a small business for many years. We are in the engineering supply sector providing components for many manufacturing companies. Over the last forty years we have experienced some good and many difficult trading years. We have also taken over several ailing companies.

Our experience with banks has quite often been difficult. One particular bugbear is their need to take personal guarantees for even small loans. This is totally unacceptable, the bank is, in reality, a supplier, like any other of our suppliers. All of our suppliers, after making enquiries, are happy to supply us, they are in effect loaning us money until they are paid. Why should a Bank be any different?

If the bank has applied due diligence in checking a company trading records it should not need to then safeguard its loan with stringent personal guarantees, they should have confidence in their judgment

It would be in government's interest to set up its own bank to fund and support small business. This would show a positive support for small business and produce a healthy income for the country.

As most intelligent MP's know, small business is the backbone of the UK economy.