
From: Zac Goldsmith [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 April 2021 19:35
To: [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk
Subject: FW: further to yesterday's email

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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From: Damian Aspinall [REDACTED]
Date: Monday, 6 April 2020 at 11:03
To: ^[Redacted] @defra.gov.uk>
Cc: Zac Goldsmith [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk
Subject: Re: further to yesterday's email



REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 326567

Damian Aspinall, Chairman,
The Aspinall Foundation
1 Hans Street

London
SW1X 0JD6th April 2020

Dear Damian,

Further to our recent discussion I write to set out my concern that the current furloughing arrangements and support offered by the UK Government whilst of considerable support for certain aspects of the business has not given enough consideration to those employees that cannot take a leave of absence during this difficult time.

For us those employees are those that need to remain in post in order to continue to care and look after our animals, essentially our keepers, animal managers and Vets. They make up a large proportion of our payroll, some 30%, and whilst we are able to furlough other members of staff involved in the day to day activities of the running of the Parks, these people need to remain in situ as their roles have not changed.

Their salaries are paid for through the operating activities of the Parks, that being day ticket visitor income, short break accommodation income and associated income, all of which of course have now ceased to operate. As a Charitable Foundation which reinvests its surplus into its conservation work, we are unable to afford this extra burden.

The Governments support I'm sure is meant to benefit as many organisations as possible and given the speed with which decisions have had to be made it is completely understandable if situations such as ours, where a large proportion of our staff have to stay in employment have potentially been overlooked.

Whilst it may be difficult to change the furloughing rules as they currently exist, as by definition to furlough a role means that there is insufficient work available for the role in question. I would ask however that the relevant authorities are asked to consider support for organisations such as zoos and wildlife parks where a large % of the employees need to remain on the payroll but no income is being generated. In these situations, then a financial grant or exemption to the furloughing rules could be offered to assist these businesses.

Kind Regards,

Tony Kelly
Managing Director
Howletts & Port Lympne Wildlife Park

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Email: info@aspinallfoundation.org Website: www.aspinallfoundation.org

Sent from my iPhone

On 5 Apr 2020, at 14:29, [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk> wrote:

And very sorry for misspelling your name there Damian!

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

On 5 Apr 2020, at 14:25, [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk> wrote:

Thanks very much Zac,

Damien, good to meet you. I'm adding [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] - can you please feed this in and make relevant introductions?

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

On 5 Apr 2020, at 13:55, Zac Goldsmith [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi all, I wanted to introduce you via email. Damian runs the Aspinall foundation as well as both Howletts and Port Lynpne zoos. James runs my private office. Sam is the special adviser for (defra) and also No10 – among other things.

I have been speaking to Damian about the crisis facing our zoos. His view is that we need to find a way of allowing them to keep their workforce but have part of their salary covered by the government. In other words they should be treated as if they have been laid off. That would make the difference between viability and closure – which is what would happen in any case if we do not step in. My view is that if we are going to bail out the zoos in this way, there should be a greater emphasis from the laggards among them in relation to conservation. They should all be doing much more of the kind of work that Damian is doing.

Z

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