

At the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce, we work together with the wider British and Scottish Chamber networks to engage with key policymakers and stakeholders to ensure that our members' views on key policy issues are represented at all levels of government.

Throughout the Coronavirus pandemic we have been campaigning for support for our members, and as part of BCC and SCC we made some key asks, and achieved some crucial policy decisions from both the Scottish and UK governments. Here you can see just a small selection of the policies we've been campaigning for:

- We asked: **protect jobs** through providing businesses with funding to retain employees, and providing income support for the self employed  
→ We achieved: launch and extension of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, as well as the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme
- We asked: **maintain cash flow** through suspending Business Rates for 3 months and giving more support for start-ups. We also asked the Scottish Government to provide sector-specific certain industries  
→ We achieved: a suspension for Business Rates, VAT and NI payments for many sectors until at least March 2021, a new Future Fund to help start-ups, and a Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund and a Creative/Hospitality/Tourism Fund from the Scottish Govt.
- We asked: **help businesses towards recovery** by giving protection for commercial tenants and for a voice for our members in Scottish Government recovery plans  
→ We achieved: a temporary ban on evictions of commercial tenants impacted by Coronavirus, whilst the SCC continues to contributing to Economic Recovery plans through direct engagement with both the Scottish Government and the Economic Recovery Advisory Group
- We asked: **provide clarity for businesses** on Government plans for businesses post-lockdown, and provide sector-by-sector workplace health guidance to allow businesses to reopen safely and confidently  
→ We achieved: a Scottish Govt. Route Map published on 21st May, as well as sectoral guidance, built on UK govt. guidance to avoid confusion

We have also recently made some asks of the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC):

- **Engage with the city's business community** in a meaningful and ongoing way to ensure that economic needs are considered alongside health and social concerns in decision making and planning, and the foundation is laid for a long term sustainable recovery
- Use any and all levers within its control to **support economic recovery**, including appropriate reductions in Non-Domestic Rates and improved planning and development processes to encourage investment and increased productivity
- Provide more **targeted support for the most affected sectors** in the city, namely aviation, tourism & hospitality, culture & leisure and retail.

We will continue to lobby for measures to help our members through this unprecedented period of economic uncertainty and stress, and into a strong economic future. If you want to speak to us about your organisation's needs, you can contact our policy team at...