Dear Member of Parliament,

As a road haulage business within your constituency, I am writing to request your immediate support.

85% of the transport market in the UK are SME businesses and collectively we keep the UK’s economy moving. Our services are now more critical than ever before. We are required to maintain the flow of food, goods and medical supplies over the forthcoming months.

A recent survey, facilitated by the Road Haulage Association (RHA), was completed by over 6,000 transport businesses. The results indicate that 50% of the UK’s HGV fleet are currently parked up. Every one of these vehicles has significant standing costs.

The average haulier is lucky if they make between 1 and 2 percent margin and most will have no more than 2 to 3 weeks of operating cost readily available to them.

Current financial support measures are not working. Loans are inaccessible and do not provide the immediate support operators need. With such low profit margins, it is also inconceivable that operators will ever be able to repay them.

Staff retention measures are inflexible, do not allow for immediate rehiring should demand dictate, and like loans and other support measures, are not available quickly enough.

Transport businesses need urgent cash injections in the form of grants, not loans, in order to maintain cashflow and survive.

This industry is in a catastrophic position. Government must act now to inject immediate financial relief into these businesses over and above the measures already announced.

Without a sector specific package of measures, transport businesses will be closed within a matter of weeks because we cannot sustain this widespread drop-in volume.

The Road Haulage Association has presented compelling data to government officials which support these concerns and have been discussing a range of possible solutions.

I ask that you urgently write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and urge him to introduce measures without delay.

Yours sincerely,