

The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

08 March 2021

Dear Prime Minister,

Businesses welcomed the clearer parameters for unlocking decisions set out last Monday and are, as you would expect, looking ahead to each of the key milestones and planning for recovery.

Critical to getting the capital's economy growing again will be the managed, safe return of staff to the city's offices. As you know, many firms invested heavily in making their offices Covid secure during 2020 and are keen to make that space available to their staff as soon as practicable, particularly for those who have found homeworking detrimental to their mental health.

So that they can plan ahead with a clear roadmap in mind, we would urge you to launch as quickly as possible your planned review into social distancing. The review must have at its heart a transparent process, with the opportunity for firms to feed in and should conclude rapidly, so that businesses can, in turn, plan their reopening with the most up-to-date guidance in mind.

We know that as people return to the office, the experience of getting back into the city means they want to come in more often. Building that confidence is important for each of us as individuals and for the economic health of the capital. London's workers are a critical part of what helps the city to thrive, as they take advantage of all the wonderful things on offer, from pubs and restaurants to theatres, galleries and museums.

Getting people back into their offices in a safe and managed way is an important part of bringing the capital and the country back to growth, and we urge you to start that process as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Jasmine Whitbread, CEO, London First

Caroline Artis, London Senior Partner, EY

Geeta Nanda, CEO, Metropolitan Thames Valley

Richard Smart MRICS, Managing Director, London, CBRE

James Raynor, Chief Executive Officer, Grosvenor Britain & Ireland

Mathieu Proust, General Manager (UK), WeWork



Des Gunewardena, Chairman and CEO, D&D London

Dyan Crowther, CEO, HS1

Gerald Kaye, Chief Executive, Helical plc

Kirsten Lees, Managing Partner, Grimshaw Architects

Mark Reynolds, Group Chief Executive, Mace

Mark Cowlard, CEO, UK & Ireland, Arcadis

Michael Payton, Chairman, Clyde & Co

Jeremy Rees, Chief Executive Officer, ExCeL London

John Holland-Kaye, Chief Executive, Heathrow Airport

Stephen Griggs, UK Managing Partner, Deloitte

Jace Tyrrell, Chief Executive, New West End Company

Debbie Akehurst, CEO, Midtown BID

Ruth Duston OBE OC, Chief Executive, South Westminster Business Alliance - Victoria, Victoria Westminster, Whitehall and Northbank BIDs

Shobi Khan, CEO, Canary Wharf Group