

Press Release

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LEADING TRADE BODY CALLS ON SECRETARY OF STATE TO EXTEND BUSINESS SUPPORT

Leading trade body, the **British Printing Industries Federation (BPIF)**, have urgently called for further direct support for the printing industry during the coronavirus crisis. On 30 March, BPIF called upon Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (central to the Federation's lobbying efforts) for the Government to implement a number of measures.

The Federation's letter details some of the significant effects the crisis is having on the industry to date – in terms of financial standing, logistics, access to finance, job retention and further.

The printing industry adds £5.5bn in gross value to the UK, employs 112,000 people and pays £3.3bn in wages every year. The vast majority of members are Small & Medium Enterprises, representing the makeup of the sector as a whole.

BPIF have called for:

- Clarification and detail added to the definition of essential services, with certain sections of the printing industry being recognised as being explicitly essential. While we believe the current guidance to be clear that printing companies are able to continue to operate, confusion on the ground means that employers need further support to demonstrate this.
- Flexibility to what has already been laid out by the Job Retention Scheme, particularly around the furloughing of workers. While the JRS has been well received, and with great relief, there is concern that, without adjustments, it will not deliver as effectively as it otherwise could.
- For the Government to engage in additional dialogue with lenders taking part in the CBIL Scheme, to ensure that lenders are interpreting the Government's intentions correctly. This will help businesses to feel secure about the Scheme, increase uptake and – importantly – improve confidence that the Government's good intentions to support businesses are being realised by the banking industry.

Charles Jarrold, British Printing Industries Federation CEO, comments:

"The impact of coronavirus is huge on our industry, and direct government actions to support those businesses, and individuals, is of urgent priority. We know Government are listening to UK industry, and we have welcomed the great intentions of support – but hope to receive further clarification and actions on points raised above as crucial to the survival of our industry"

BPIF have sent a detailed **Business Impact Survey on Monday 23 March, closing this Friday.**

<https://www.britishprint.com/industry-news/more/29005/page/2/coronavirus-business-impact-survey>

For any queries about this release please email anais.bellemans@bpif.org.uk or carys.davis@bpif.org.uk

The British Printing Industries Federation (BPIF)

The BPIF is a thriving, best-in-class trade association invigorating a modern, progressive print industry. We inspire those within the UK print, printed packaging and graphic communication industries to see opportunities for growth. Our members form a diverse and influential community and together we ensure the industry's voice is heard in Government.

We help solve business problems and drive strategic change providing the highest standard of support so our members can grow and develop healthy, sustainable and profitable businesses. Our experts specialise in offering practical, value-adding solutions for all areas of a business, ranging from HS&E and quality issues to HR disputes. They provide resolutions of technical or legal issues as well as giving advice and support on training, marketing, sales and finance.

We are passionate about upskilling the industry, making it our mission to educate, inspire and equip the future generation of print. In addition we offer a wide range of opportunities for networking both regionally and nationally, including prestigious events, special interest groups and popular short courses on a wide range of topics.

For more information on the BPIF, visit: www.britishprint.com