The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP

The Prime Minister

10 Downing Street

London

SW1A 2AA

Xxx June 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

**Reopening of the Beauty, Spa and Wellness Industry**

**[Name of your organisation/Your name and role]** **are/am** writing to express **our/my** dismay about the announcement that hairdressers and barbers can open on 4th July, while what the Government has termed ‘nail bars’ and the rest of the beauty, spa and wellness industry is to remain closed with no clarity on when we will be able to restart our operations.

By way of introduction, **[insert a brief background of your organisation]**.

The hair and beauty service industry alone contributes £6.6bn to the UK economy, which equates to at least 8% of the value generated by the retail sector. It also employs up to 337,687 people, predominately women, across 49,371 businesses and provides over 16,500 apprenticeships.

The longer beauty businesses, spas and well-being facilities are forced to remain closed, the more jobs are at risk as many businesses may never be able to reopen their doors. This disproportionately impacts the livelihoods of the high number of women working in the industry, many of whom work part-time or on a self-employed basis, providing them with the necessary flexibility to support themselves and their families.

Our industry has asked the Government to allow the industry to reopen in line with very strict safety guidelines, but our calls have not been heard.

We were also dismayed by your reference to “nail bars” in your statement to Members in the House. As noted above, the industries are a significant contributor to the economy and the jobs market. Our salons, spas and wellbeing facilities are the beating heart of high streets and local communities up and down the country. We urge you to recognise the industry as a serious economic player in the UK, not to mention the significant role we play in supporting the mental and physical wellbeing of the communities and people we serve.

The beauty, spa and wellness industry has been patiently waiting to reopen in phase 3 and making all the necessary preparations to ensure the safety of stuff and customers. It is illogical that guidance has been published on keeping workers and clients safe in close contact services including hair, beauty, spa and wellness facilities, while only some of these services have been given the go ahead to open. Furthermore, the Government has not outlined its scientific reasoning on why many comparable sectors and services can operate “in a Covid-secure way” while our industry cannot.

The continued uncertainty around when beauty, spa and wellness business can reopen has caused heightened anxiety on the long-term future of the sector and the thousands of jobs it supports.

We urge you to reconsider the re-opening of beauty, spa and wellness industry alongside hairdressers, and provide immediate clarity to us on when will be allowed to restart work.

Best regards,

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