



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

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Our ref: N10#2020/10072
Your ref: NW/AP

29 April 2020

Dear Nick

Thank you for your letter of 3 April to the Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP, regarding the role that companies within the wider delivery sector play in the coronavirus response. I am replying as this matter falls within my Ministerial portfolio.

I clearly write to you at an unprecedented time for the nation and for our economy. The Government is working around the clock to provide guidance, support and direction to the public. We have set up a dedicated Business Support Helpline (0300 456 3565) and webpage should you need further information on our response to COVID-19 at: www.businesssupport.gov.uk/. More general advice on the full range of measures, support and advice can be found on the Government's website at: www.gov.uk/coronavirus.

The Government recognises the important role that delivery workers play in serving customers and supporting businesses across the UK. Their willingness to maintain deliveries during a time of increased social isolation and when many people cannot leave their homes is vital. That is why the Government has identified delivery workers as 'key workers', ensuring that educational provision will be made available for their children.

Thank you also for bringing to my attention the examples of customers and businesses currently benefiting from delivery services, including Thompson Morgan and Toucan. It is clear that the UK's delivery sector is having a real impact on the lives of individuals as well as charities and businesses. The Government appreciates the work and efforts of all delivery workers in the coronavirus response and will continue to do what it can to support all companies in the sector.

I would also like to take this opportunity to stress how seriously the Government takes the safety of all workers, including postal workers. I am grateful to companies for the steps they have taken to modify their operations in the light of Government guidance on social distancing, helping to keep staff and customers safe. I would encourage Whistl, like all other operators, to keep up to date with guidance to businesses on coronavirus, which is available online:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/guidance-for-employers-and-businesses-on-coronavirus-covid-19>.

Thank you for writing.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Scully', is positioned above the printed name.

PAUL SCULLY MP

Minister for Small Business, Consumers & Labour Markets
Minister for London