



Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP,
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Minister for the Cabinet Office
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

11 October 2021

Request for clarity regarding the detail behind the Autumn & Winter Plan, particularly Plan B

Dear Mr Barclay

I write on behalf of BOSS, the British Office Supplies and Services Federation. We represent a sector worth £10 billion to the UK economy and our members who represent the whole supply chain support thousands of businesses with the manufacture and supply of the products they need to keep our workplaces running.

As you can imagine, our sector – like many, including town and city centre hospitality – relies on the occupation of offices and so we strongly welcome the Government's encouragement to return to work. However, business also requires as much certainty as is possible in these difficult times, and our members have requested clarity regarding the detail behind the Autumn & Winter Plan, particularly Plan B.

They would like to know:

- The Government has suggested that Plan B will be implemented if the data shows that the NHS will be placed under unsustainable pressure. What are the specific metrics to which this refers? (For example, infection rates/hospital admissions).
- The Government has promised to publish more detail about the proposed certification regime that would be introduced as Part of Plan B.
 - When can this be expected, following the closure of the Call for Evidence on 11 October?
 - As part of that publication, can more clarity be given regarding other measures that may be introduced?
 - Should the regime (and other measures) be introduced, can the Government make a stronger commitment to a minimum of one week's notice before this comes into force?
- What support will be offered to businesses under Plan B?

You'll also be aware that costs of all kinds are rising exponentially. In this environment, any further clarity you can give will help our members plan ahead as best they can, and to protect workforces.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Simon Drakeford".

Simon Drakeford
Chairman, BOSS Federation

Cc: Alan Dick, Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
Cc: Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng, MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy