



Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng
Chancellor of the Exchequer
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Wednesday 7 September 2022

Dear Chancellor,

We write as local leaders and business representatives in Lambeth who are deeply concerned about the impact of the cost of trading crisis on our Borough's businesses.

While we welcome initial measures around energy bill support schemes for households, we believe the Government must go much further to support businesses. Our businesses are facing extraordinary challenges due to the unprecedented rise in energy costs, as well as the ongoing recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, further compounded by shocks across the supply chain as a result of Brexit. We call on the Government to go further in support of local economies at this difficult time.

Businesses in all sectors are deeply fearful that the cost of trading crisis could force them to close permanently, causing major hardship for owners, workers and customers alike. Lambeth's cultural venues, only just bouncing back post pandemic, are also gravely at risk - one organisation seeing an increase in energy bills from £7,500 to £19,500 this year. As their energy and production costs increase, ticket sales and donations decrease as the cost-of-living crisis hits people's pockets.

Businesses in Lambeth and across the country are already suffering from the widest trade deficit since records began, and ONS figures showing that GDP fell by 0.6% in June¹. This is deeply concerning for businesses who have been relying on a prosperous summer and autumn of trading to recover from the pandemic period.

We urge the Chancellor to announce an energy price cap for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Charitable Organisations, and a discount on Business Rates. This would give businesses some confidence about their cost of trading, allowing them to plan into the future and invest.

We call on the Government to work with Local Authorities and the BID industry to enable us to continue providing vital support for our local economies through the cost of trading crisis.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Claire Holland
Leader of Lambeth
Council

**Cllr Jacqui
Dyer**
Deputy Leader
(Inclusive
Economy and
Equalities)
Lambeth Council

Cllr David Amos
Cabinet Member
(Finance and
Cost of Living)
Lambeth Council

Gianluca Rizzo
Managing Director
Brixton BID

Louise Abbotts
BID Manager
InStreatham

Nic Durston
Chief Executive
South Bank BID
& South Bank
Employers
Group

**Charlotte
Ashworth**
BID Manager
Station to Station
BID

Jeremy Keates
BID Manager
This is Clapham

Bernard Collier
Chief Executive
Vauxhall One

Natalie Raben
Chief Executive
WeAreWaterloo



ⁱ GDP monthly estimate, UK: June 2022:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/grossdomesticproductgdp/bulletins/gdpmonthlyestimateuk/june2022>