

4th March 2021

Richard Corrigan
Acting Director General, Economy
Government of Jersey
By email

Dear Richard

Visitor Attractions and Events Scheme – Formal Instruction

Further to my Letter of Instruction dated 14th December 2020, I am writing to confirm that I would like the entry criteria for the Visitor Attractions and Events Scheme to be amended in order to provide support to key businesses in this sector.

As you are aware, there have been fewer than 10 successful claims from the scheme to date with less than £100,000 of support distributed. This is far below the expected uptake and the scheme has therefore not achieved what it was designed for. In view of this, the proposed changes were endorsed at the meeting of the Competent Authorities Meeting on Wednesday 3rd March.

As previously articulated, the larger attractions and events companies provide key infrastructure that underpins our tourism and hospitality industries which, in turn, support our air and sea transport links. These businesses will play a vital role in the Island's economic recovery and the Council of Ministers agreed on 16th October 2020 that we should implement this scheme to help them through the pandemic.

I would like to amend the entry criteria for the scheme, as set out below, in order to ensure the key attractions and events businesses can access financial assistance.

- i. The turnover threshold for eligibility is reduced from £300,000 to £150,000;
- ii. The detriment requirement is reduced from 50% to 30% so that it corresponds with other Government support schemes;
- iii. The requirement to be registered for GST is removed;
- iv. The requirements relating to bank support are changed to mirror the requirements of the Visitor Accommodation Scheme;
- v. Car rental and coach companies are eligible to apply;

vi. The revised entry criteria should be backdated to the start of January 2021.

I recognise that the risks and concerns highlighted in your previous letter are still applicable, but I also believe that the sector has been particularly hard hit by the Covid-19 pandemic and requires support to sustain them through the recovery phase. The funding allocated to the scheme will provide crucial assistance to these businesses.

Please take the necessary steps to implement the changes without delay.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lyndon Farnham', with a horizontal line drawn through it.

Senator Lyndon Farnham
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