



Treasury Committee

House of Commons, Committee Office

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Rt Hon. Philip Hammond MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
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Dear Philip

On the 12 June the Committee received oral evidence from the Valuation Office Agency (VOA).

The Treasury Committee is increasingly concerned with the financial burden that business rates are placing on high streets businesses. In recent weeks the media has reported that several well-known high streets brands are closing stores and going into administration, many of whom are citing business rates as one of the factors why their businesses were no longer viable. In addition, during the session with the VOA, the Committee discussed whether business rates place undue burden on businesses with physical premises versus online retailers.

It is against this backdrop that I wanted to write to you to understand whether the Treasury still believes that business rates are 'fit for purpose'? Has the Treasury conducted any analysis into the competitive advantage for businesses that focus on online sales; or indeed how a remodel of how business rates are calculated could level the playing field between businesses with physical stores and online retailers?

I would be grateful for a response by 26 June. I am placing this letter and in due course, your response, in the public domain.

MORGAN
Nicky

Rt Hon. Nicky Morgan MP
Chair of the Treasury Committee