

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing with urgency to ask you to support our campaign for inclusion in the Chancellor's rescue package for business.

I am a Showman and run a travelling funfair/circus but not from a fixed-premises and as such, I do not qualify for the support or parachute payments of £25,000 offered to the rest of the hospitality or events sector.

The travelling funfair and touring circuses businesses have seen our markets disappear, from outdoor events, festivals, private functions and fairs we have been shut down and our income streams have gone. We have staff to pay and other obligations, but we are concerned we've been overlooked – which will be catastrophic for my business and our industry.

In addition, as I run a very seasonal business, I may not be able to earn an income until next spring, while most other businesses should return to normal by Autumn. We have five months to earn our living and in those five months, we could be shut down. Thousands of independent Showmen will close within the next week and many thousands of staff will be laid off. Some will be mothballed; many will never return.

The Showmen community does have the capacity to support government efforts to combat Covid-19 by providing drivers, equipment such as generators and other expertise. We will not be able to assist if our industry fails in the next two weeks.

I am requesting that you raise an urgent question in Parliament regarding the inclusion of non-business rate businesses in the Chancellor's support package so we can continue to trade and keep our staff. Also, to raise awareness that we are here to help the nation, the government and our essential emergency workers by offering our help as Showmen have done in other times of crisis and during both World Wars.

Please engage with us at the earliest opportunity so we can do our bit.

Yours Sincerely,'

Joe Mercer
General Secretary the Showmen's Guild of Great Britain
On behalf of the Guild President and Officials.