



Marie Rimmer CBE, MP
Member of Parliament for St. Helens
South & Whiston
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Tel: 020 7219 4847/01744 752075

Support for Hospitality:

I appreciate the concerns raised by some constituents on this issue. The hospitality sector is still recovering from the pandemic and is now being hit by the cost-of-living crisis, both through increased staff, energy, food and drink costs and through consumers having less money to spend on going out.

It is very worrying that according to a survey from “UKHospitality” and other trade bodies in 2022 more than a third of hospitality businesses said they were at risk of failure in the following months. I am concerned that the Government has failed to protect businesses in the sector and allowed the running down of our high streets.

As constituents may know, at the Autumn Statement business rates relief for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses was extended to 2024-25. The small rates multiplier has also been frozen for a year, although the standard multiplier will rise to 54.6p.

I hope that hospitality businesses will find any help with business rates welcome. More widely, however, I am concerned that the Government has once again missed an opportunity for fundamental reform. The UK’s business rates system is not fit for purpose.

I believe it is wrong for high street businesses to face this large tax burden while big online corporations are let off the hook. I believe that in the longer term, we need to scrap and replace the current business rates system in England and Wales with a fully costed and funded system that is fit for the 21st century. This new system should reduce the burden on high streets, rather than making those businesses that are at the heart of our communities pay more than their fair share.

Marie Rimmer CBE, MP

Constituency Office:

Marie Rimmer CBE, MP, 2nd Floor, Century House, Hardshaw Street, St. Helens WA10 1QU, 01744 752075,
marie.rimmer.mp@parliament.uk
Website: www.marierimmer.co.uk