

To: Minister Grant Robertson  
Minister Stuart Nash

Via E-mail

22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021,

Dear Ministers,

Business North Harbour (BNH) operates the North Harbour Business Improvement District (BID) in Auckland which has a membership of 4,500 property owners and businesses who between them employ around 35,000 people. The BID sits within the Upper Harbour Local Board area which contributed almost \$7 billion in GDP to the NZ economy last year.

During the past months BNH has become increasingly concerned by some of the major ongoing challenges which our members are facing, as they try to make a sustainable financial recovery from the effects of the pandemic. The situation being exacerbated by the latest Alert Level 4 lockdown and the transition into Alert Level 3 for at least a further two-week period.

Many of the 2500+ businesses in the BNH area are either working at a significantly reduced capacity or are unable to open for business during Alert Level 4, with little additional capacity available to many under Alert Level 3. Rent, rates and wages need to be paid and whilst the wage subsidy and resurgence payments are acknowledged, they are simply not enough for many.

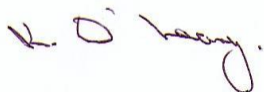
On behalf of our members, I am writing to ask the Government to urgently consider further financial support for businesses in Auckland who are once again bearing the brunt of the latest lockdowns compared to the rest of NZ.

I would also ask that the Government outlines for businesses parameters such as vaccination targets and any other criteria, under which more Auckland businesses would be allowed to operate during raised Alert Levels in the future.

Whilst the health and wellbeing of our population remain of paramount importance, the health and wellbeing of many business owners is being severely compromised as a result of the additional stress brought about by these lockdowns, so I would ask the Government to take urgent action to help mitigate the effects of the issues highlighted.

Thank you.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "K. O'Leary".

Kevin O'Leary  
General Manager Business North Harbour