

Dear Prime Minister

In the light of the events of the last couple of years I'm writing to request your personal support and the support of your government for the Keep It Local campaign launched during the height of the pandemic by a group of over 300 independent local office products dealers.

A number of these had to shut down premises and furlough staff over the last 18 months whilst maintaining necessary supply to the still functioning local economy. These businesses adjusted their offering, working with just skeleton staff, to source and supply huge amounts of PPE equipment for all manner of clients, including NHS accounts, General Practitioners, Care Homes and Pharmacies.

More recently these businesses have begun to offer support to local businesses with advice and social distancing products to enable the local economy to return to work. Without doubt, the importance of local businesses has been underlined by recent events. Their agile ability to adapt to whatever the circumstances presented, and their desire to support their own local business communities strikes right at the heart of what we stand for as a trading nation.

I know government has expressed an ambitious desire for one third of its' spend on goods and services to be with SME's, either directly or through the supply chain by 2022 – that deadline isn't that far away now!

It's critical that the office products dealers behind this Keep It Local campaign, and other SME's for that matter, get a fair slice of the cake. There are many contracts that SME businesses don't always seem to get a fair crack against larger multi-national players who, in my opinion, have very little regard for our economy, don't pay their fair share of taxes and get an unfair advantage every time.

I'm looking for your support and for you to actively get behind our campaign to give smaller businesses a fairer opportunity – they are the bedrock of our trading nation and should be valued accordingly.

I would like to hear of the progress that your government is making with this pledge. Come on give us an update!

Kind regards



Tim Beaumont - Managing Director

www.keep-it-local.co.uk

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