

Dear [MP NAME],

Immigration Bill, Covid-19 and UK ELT

I am [TITLE] of [CENTRE NAME], an accredited English language teaching centre in your constituency.

I've written before about the contribution our centre and others makes to the regional and national economy, and about the threat Covid-19 poses to our survival, preventing our students from travelling to or booking with us since the outbreak began in January.

A little reminder, though, that UK ELT is a world leader and brings £1.4bn to our country's economy, more than the fishing industry. It also brings us soft power, which will be important as we make trade relationships in future and acts as a pipeline for HE students who are so important to our universities.

[Insert paragraph with regional figures here if you wish – see next page]

While some of the Government's emergency initiatives have helped us stay afloat, there is much more support that we need now and probably later than other industries as a result of Covid-19.

We are also very concerned about the effects the measures currently in the Immigration Bill are likely to have on our centre's ability to do business.

We would appreciate your support, both now and when Parliament returns. Here are our issues:

1. We are asking the Chancellor of the Exchequer to extend the business rates holiday and associated grants offered to the tourism, retail and leisure sectors to include the ELT sector.

ELT centres are B1 office space (although they require D1 permission to operate) and, because they are schools, are significantly larger than most offices. That means they pay very high business rates. The business rates holiday scheme has been extended to nurseries, estate agencies, letting agencies and bingo halls: a handful of councils have agreed to grant the relief to ELT centres. All our members need this concession urgently: will you tell the Chancellor?

2. Ongoing financial support for ELT once immediate COVID-19 lockdown ends.

ELT is a largely seasonal industry with peaks in Easter and the summer: many centres have earned almost nothing this year because of the pandemic's timing and student travel this summer looks unlikely. Centres will need the extension of existing measures and additional support to keep going until they can reopen fully in 2021.

3. While the Government negotiates with the EU, we need it to maintain Erasmus+ relationships and funding.

A significant proportion of ELT students and ELT teachers taking training courses are supported by the EU Erasmus+ scheme. Losing this business could close many ELT centres.

4. We want the Home Secretary to support ELT's needs in post 2020 immigration regulations.

Plans to remove ID-card travel and not provide a seasonal worker route for ELT are particularly damaging. We would like:

- **Passport-free travel documents for group travel for students aged 18 and under.** EU nationals – particularly teenagers - often do not have passports as they can travel widely on ID cards. Over half of ELT students are 18 and under, and most come for short summer courses of under a fortnight as part of a group. The extra costs of getting a passport for one short holiday risks further damaging this valuable market.
- **A light-touch, flexible, short-term study visa for up to a year with no time restrictions for all ELT students.** Current restrictions can prevent students from taking follow-on courses at UK further and higher education institutions during their unexpired visa period. Longer term students are critical to the UK ELT sector's post Covid-19 recovery.
- **All those already studying in the UK to be able to apply for a new visa for further study without leaving the country.** Regulations currently insist that students already in the UK must depart to apply for a new visa to continue their education. We want these students to remain in the UK system and make it as easy to apply for follow-on visas as our competitors do in the USA, Canada, Australia, Malta, Ireland and New Zealand. This will help the UK's ELT sector attract students who may otherwise choose other study destinations.
- **All English language providers to be accredited, and recognise Accreditation UK on all visa routes.** We believe all students deserve the highest standards of teaching, management and care so we want all English language teaching centres to be accredited, and for Accreditation UK to be recognised on all visa routes.
- **Restoration of work rights of up to 20 hours a week for adult students on ELT courses with accredited providers.** ELT students would have parity with university students the UK would be aligned with competitor nations, helping the UK attract longer-term students from around the world.
- **Make sure ELT can get the qualified seasonal staff it needs for summer and Easter peaks by reconsidering the pro-rata block in the points-based system, allowing temporary workers or creating a youth mobility scheme.** ELT is a seasonal industry and relies on qualified staff at peak periods who have come from the EU.

We would be grateful for any help and support you could give to an important but overlooked industry. Please get in touch if I can supply any more information.

Yours sincerely,

REGIONAL PARAGRAPHS – CHOOSE THE ONE YOU NEED

North East

In our region alone, ELT students support 710 jobs of which 70 are in teaching centres. The gross value added to our region by ELT was £32m, of which £3m is the direct effect of students' spending on their courses. The rest comes from spending on suppliers, by ELT employees, and by the leisure spending of students and their visitors during their stay in the UK.

North West

In our region alone, 2,910 jobs are supported by ELT students of which 550 are in ELT centres. The gross value added to our region by ELT was £120m, of which £20m is the direct effect of students' spending on their courses. The rest comes from spending on suppliers, by ELT employees, and by the leisure spending of students and their visitors during their stay in the UK.

Yorkshire and The Humber

In our region alone, 2,020 jobs are supported by ELT students, of which 440 are in the teaching centres. The gross value added to our region by ELT was £84m, of which £16m is the direct effect of students' spending on their courses. The rest comes from spending on suppliers, by ELT employees, and by the leisure spending of students and their visitors during their stay in the UK.

East Midlands

In our region alone, 2,020 jobs are supported by ELT students of which 160 are in ELT centres. The gross value added to our region by ELT was £64m, of which £6m is the direct effect of students' spending on their courses. The rest comes from spending on suppliers, by ELT employees, and by the leisure spending of students and their visitors during their stay in the UK.

West Midlands

In our region alone, 1,840 jobs are supported by ELT students of which 290 are in ELT centres. The gross value added to our region by ELT was £79m, of which £11m is the direct effect of students' spending on their courses. The rest comes from spending on suppliers, by ELT employees, and by the leisure spending of students and their visitors during their stay in the UK.

East

In our region alone, 2,970 jobs are supported by ELT students of which 720 are in ELT centres. The gross value added to our region by ELT was £116m, of which £26m is the direct effect of students' spending on their courses. The rest comes from spending on suppliers, by ELT employees, and by the leisure spending of students and their visitors during their stay in the UK.

London

In our region alone, 7,810 jobs are supported by ELT students of which 2,100 are in ELT centres. The gross value added to our region by ELT was £310m, of which £75m is the direct effect of students' spending on their courses. The rest comes from spending on suppliers, by ELT employees, and by the leisure spending of students and their visitors during their stay in the UK.

South East (including Oxford)

In our region alone, 7,230 jobs are supported by ELT students of which 2,140 are in ELT centres. The gross value added to our region by ELT was £275m, of which £77m is the direct effect of students' spending on their courses. The rest comes from spending on suppliers, by ELT employees, and by the leisure spending of students and their visitors during their stay in the UK.

South West (including Bournemouth)

In our region alone, 4,270 jobs are supported by ELT students of which 1,510 are in ELT centres. The gross value added to our region by ELT was £164m, of which £54m is the direct effect of students' spending on their courses. The rest comes from spending on suppliers, by ELT employees, and by the leisure spending of students and their visitors during their stay in the UK.

Wales

In our region alone, 1,300 jobs are supported by ELT students of which 330 are in ELT centres. The gross value added to our region by ELT was £52m, of which £12m is the direct effect of students' spending on their courses. The rest comes from spending on suppliers, by ELT employees, and by the leisure spending of students and their visitors during their stay in the UK.

Scotland

In our region alone, 2,560 jobs are supported by ELT students, of which 390 are in ELT centres. The gross value added to our region by ELT was £110m, of which £14m is the direct effect of students' spending on their courses. The rest comes from spending on suppliers, by ELT employees, and by the leisure spending of students and their visitors during their stay in the UK.

Northern Ireland

In our region alone, 540 jobs are supported by ELT students of which 90 are in ELT centres. The gross value added to our region by ELT was £23m, of which £3m is the direct effect of students' spending on their courses. The rest comes from spending on suppliers, by ELT employees, and by the leisure spending of students and their visitors during their stay in the UK.