**Diagram

Description automatically generated**

**Write to your MP and #SupportScotch in alcohol tax review**

1. Find the contact details of your MP by searching your postcode [here](https://www.writetothem.com/).

2. Your local MP is displayed, click their name

3. Copy and paste the suggested letter below – please change as necessary

4. Provide your full name and address – needed when contacting MPs

5. Send the letter to your MP via email

6. Tell us you have emailed your MP by emailing [info@swa.org.uk](mailto:info@swa.org.uk) so we keep you in touch with our campaign to end tariffs

We have drafted a suggested letter to send to your local MP below. Contacting your MP is easy and only takes a couple of minutes.

Dear <insert name of local MP>,

**Support Scotch Whisky in HM Treasury review of alcohol excise duty**

I am writing to ask you to support the Scotch Whisky industry in the review of UK alcohol excise duty that is currently underway.

As you will know, the Scotch Whisky industry is vital to Scotland’s economy. The industry supports 42,000 jobs and generates more than £5.5bn in economic contribution each year. In the last Queen’s Speech, the UK government committed to *“ensure our tax system is supporting Scottish whisky and gin producers and protecting 42,000 jobs supported by Scotch across the UK.”* As my local MP, I would like you to help ensure that the outcome of the duty review is in line with that pledge and supports the Scotch Whisky industry, its workforce and supply chain partners.

HM Treasury has conducted a ‘Call for Evidence’ which concluded on 29 November 2020. I would be grateful if you would write to the Chancellor to note the importance of this review being completed as soon as possible. In addition, I would like you to highlight the importance of the review in backing Scotch Whisky and other UK spirits producers to enable continued business investment, protect jobs and generate more in tax revenue for the Treasury while protecting public health.

Scotch Whisky, and other spirits, remain subject to a far higher tax burden in the UK than other categories of alcohol. Per unit of alcohol, consumers pay more significantly more tax on Scotch Whisky than other types of alcohol – 16% more than wine (12% abv), 51% more than beer (5% abv) and 256% more than cider (5% abv). This puts Scotch Whisky at a competitive disadvantage in the UK market. The Chief Medical Officers’ guidelines on low-risk consumption say adults should drink no more than 14 units a week of alcohol. The guidelines do not discriminate between categories of alcohol, and I don’t think the tax system should either.

The alcohol tax review is the first real opportunity to update excise duty structures in a century. By using it to address the existing tax burden on Scotch Whisky and other spirits, the Chancellor can deliver more in revenue for the public finances, enable further investment in the Scotch Whisky industry, and introduce an alcohol tax system fit for the 21st century. This will, in turn, deliver growth that will support the Covid-19 economic recovery and benefit the hospitality sector.

As my local MP, please join me in supporting the Scotch Whisky industry and a fairer, clearer and modern alcohol tax system.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

[first name, second name]

[full postal address]