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**Write to your MP and #SupportScotch ahead of the UK budget on 27 October**

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 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 UK budget on 27 October**

I am writing to ask you to support the Scotch Whisky industry ahead of the UK budget on 27 October 2021.

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 2019 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.”* Almost two years later, there has been no progress and £3 in every £4 spent on Scotch Whisky in the UK is still collected in tax.

As my local MP, I would like you to help to ensure there is no further increase to tax on Scotch Whisky in the autumn budget, and that the competitive disadvantage faced by Scotch Whisky versus other alcohol categories is not made worse.

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.

Since HM Treasury conducted a ‘Call for Evidence’ in October 2020, there has been no further progress on the review. As my local MP, I would be grateful if you would write to the Chancellor to tell him that until the UK government’s promise to the Scotch Whisky industry is kept, and the tax system reformed to make it fairer for consumers and business, there should be no further increase in tax on Scotch Whisky.

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.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

[first name, second name]

[full postal address]