



The Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW19 4DR

Via email to: xxxxxxxx

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2 November 2020

Covid-19 essential service confirmation

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing to you as Chief Executive of the BVRLA, the trade association for the UK vehicle rental and car club sector. Our 300+ rental members operate 1,800 outlets across the full breadth of the UK, including 647 airport and train station branches. They operate a combined fleet of 371,000 cars, vans and trucks and play a vital role in providing flexible and affordable access to road transport. There are an estimated 17 million car and van rental transactions each year, involving more than 10 million customers.

I am getting in touch ahead of the new national Covid-19 restrictions due to come into force on Thursday 5th November.

Please can you urgently clarify that **vehicle rental** remains excluded from business closure as an essential service – as was the case during the first national lockdown earlier this year. This status has already been confirmed in Wales.

Our members continue to work with key workers and organisations delivering essential services up and down the country and are being asked to give assurances that they can continue providing this support.

As ever, I am available to discuss this matter with you. In the meantime, I would like to thank you and your colleagues across government for your support throughout the Coronavirus pandemic.

Yours sincerely

Gerry Keaney
Chief Executive, BVRLA

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