



# Andrew Rosindell M.P.

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**The Rt Hon. Jeremy Hunt M.P.**

Chancellor of the Exchequer

His Majesty's Treasury

1 Horse Guards Road

LONDON

SW1A 2HQ

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023

Dear Jeremy

## **Call for review of late filing penalty policy**

I trust this letter finds you well. Today, I write to you to express my deep concern regarding the unjust fines imposed upon self-employed individuals who are penalised for 'late tax return filing' despite not owing any taxes.

As the representative of my constituents, I have been made aware of this pressing issue, which has garnered significant attention and discontent from numerous self-employed individuals who have suffered from these unfair fines.

The present policy on late filing penalties leads to a distressing scenario where individuals who do not owe any taxes can face fines of up to £1,600. Such financial burdens can be particularly crippling for those who are already facing financial challenges.

It is my firm belief that these fines lack fairness and serve no real purpose other than to punish individuals who have inadvertently erred in their tax filing. In most instances, these mistakes are due to a lack of knowledge or confusion about the intricate tax system.

Therefore, I respectfully urge you to undertake a thorough review of the late filing penalty policy.

Additionally, I kindly request that you contemplate reducing the fines for individuals who do owe some tax. As it stands, the current fines disproportionately impact those who may already be struggling financially, creating an additional burden that could be better addressed through a more balanced penalty system.

In proposing these changes, I am confident that we align ourselves with the government's commitment to fostering fairness and supporting the self-employed sector. It is essential to strike a balance between compliance and empathy when dealing with these matters.



Thank you for dedicating your time and attention to this matter. I am hopeful that, under your stewardship, we can bring about positive changes that will protect the interests of the self-employed and promote a more equitable tax system.

Yours sincerely,

*Andrew Rosindell*

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