

Rt Hon Rachel Reeves MP  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
HM Treasury  
1 Horse Guards Rd  
London SW1A 2HQ

Dear Chancellor,

As we approach the Budget on the 30 October we are writing to you to ask that you back Scotch Whisky as part of your measures.

This will be your first Budget. A Budget that will set out the direction of travel for this new Labour Government and how it intends to deliver on its missions over the years ahead.

We understand that no Budget is easy, but a first Budget sets a direction of travel, is a marker for the future, and should be built on the promises set out at the election. This includes ‘backing Scotch producers to the hilt’.

Keeping this commitment will have wider positive impacts. It will show that this is a mission led government, focussed on delivering change, and growing our economy. Backing the UK’s most successful UK food and drink export should be at the heart of your approach.

As business organisations we have all made our asks of you in the lead up to this budget. A common ask of our organisations is that you recognise the damaging impact of the duty increase on Scotch Whisky last August.

The largest tax rise on Scotch Whisky in 40 years not only hit confidence and investment, but it reduced Treasury revenue and led to the largest contribution to inflation from alcohol on record. Beginning to reverse that damage, and showing support for our leading export in its home market, is vital on 30 October. A reduction in the tax burden for Scotch Whisky will signal that Scotland is competitive place to invest, would recognise the benefits of the sustainable employment for which the Scotch Whisky industry is renowned, and would boost a central part of Labour’s ‘Brand Scotland’ vision.

We urge you to back Scotch Whisky, and in doing so back Scotland.



Catherine McWilliam  
Nations Director – Scotland  
Institute of Directors



Sara Thiam  
Chief Executive  
Prosper



Iain Baxter  
Chief Executive  
Scotland Food & Drink



Dr Liz Cameron CBE  
Director and Chief Executive  
Scottish Chambers of Commerce



Marc Crothall MBE  
Chief Executive  
Scottish Tourism Alliance



Leon Thompson  
Executive Director  
UK Hospitality Scotland