XXXX MP
House of Commons

London SW1A 0AA

XX November 2017

Dear Mr/Ms XX

**Re: IR35 tax changes will do serious damage to my business**

I am extremely concerned by recent reports that the Chancellor is considering changing the way the IR35 tax rules work in the private sector. As a freelancer, dealing with the tax system is always tricky, and IR35 is one of the most complex – and costly – tax laws for self-employed people. The proposed change would not only add to the complication; it would also do serious damage to self-employed businesses like mine, as well as the wider UK economy.

It would make it much harder for one-person companies to operate. In fact, it would put me out of business/force me to retire early/force me to move abroad to continue my business/force me to raise a legal challenge, at considerable personal cost. Not only that: by harming thousands of self-employed people like me, it would make it much harder for companies across the UK to access the vital flexible expertise they need to deliver projects and drive the economy forward.

The proposed changes would be an extension of the extremely damaging decision the Government took in April to change the way IR35 works in the public sector. This shifted responsibility for determining IR35 status from self-employed businesses like mine to end-clients. And because judging IR35 status is notoriously difficult, public sector bodies have been unable to make the thousands of complex determinations necessary. Instead, many have just enforced blanket IR35 decisions, forcing contractors – whether they should be under IR35 or not – to pay employee taxes and the employers’ National Insurance charge (an effective rate of around 50 per cent). Yet despite paying these significant taxes, the contractors aren’t entitled to employee benefits.

This state of affairs is clearly unfair and has already driven many contractors out of the public sector, causing serious disruptions to a range of Government projects. In fact, the British Medical Association has declared that “IR35 has been an administrative disaster for the NHS”. I cannot imagine why the Government would even be considering extending this ruinous legislation to the private sector.

If the Government does decide to extend this change to the private sector, as I mentioned before, it would force me to: [restate in own words how it will affect your business]

It is beyond disappointing to me that a supposedly pro-business, pro-self-employment Conservative Government would consider such a policy. [Consider including if your MP is Conservative] It is almost as if the Conservatives are declaring war on a hard-working group that just manages to get by. As your constituent, I urge you to raise these points with the Treasury ahead of the Autumn Budget, and do everything in your power to prevent a policy that would be a disaster both for self-employed people like me and for the wider economy.

Yours sincerely,