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**Ireland
Active**

**Leisure, Health
and Fitness
Association**

Minister Paschal Donohoe TD
Minister for Finance & Public Expenditure and Reform
Government Buildings,
Upper Merrion Street,
Dublin 2, D02 R583

12th March 2020

Re: Urgent Measures needed to protect businesses and jobs in the leisure, health and fitness sector in response to Covid-19/Coronavirus

Dear Minister Donohoe,

Ireland Active is the national association for the leisure, health and fitness sector representing over 350 organisations in Ireland. Our members include public, hotel and private leisure centres, swimming pools, gyms, sports facilities and education providers and activity centres in every community in Ireland. The sector is estimated to employ 10,000 people and contributes to the participation of over 1 million adults and children in sport and physical activity each week through personal exercise and swimming.

From your time in the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport it is clear that you have a good understanding of the sector and the vital contribution that it makes to the health and economy of the nation.

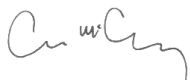
The Covid-19 Coronavirus situation in Ireland is causing significant challenges to businesses in our sector and we are asking government to provide urgent supports in line with other areas in the economy. **Our key asks are for a payment holiday for businesses from-**

- **VAT payment**
- **Local Authority Rates**
- **Mortgage payments**
- **PRSI payment**
- **Water Charges**

We are asking that this be for an initial two-month period to be renewed/reviewed thereafter as this current crisis develops. I trust that you will take into consideration these urgent measures and we look forward to a positive response in due course.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards,



Conn McCluskey
Chief Executive
Ireland Active
083-1285169

Cc: Minister Ross, Minister Griffin and Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport