Written Question

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what consideration he has given to extending access to the Business Support Scheme to those coastal and fishing businesses affected by the winter storms. [189360]

Matthew Hancock: The £10 million Business Support Scheme is a business hardship fund to help those businesses most hard hit by this winter's flooding, both as a result of tidal surge and exceptional rainfall. The scheme will be administered by local authorities and it is they who will take decisions about which businesses receive funding. Our guidance to local authorities makes it clear that they should provide support to those businesses in flood-affected areas that have suffered either: direct flood damage to premises, equipment and/or stock, or those businesses that have suffered significant loss of business as a result of being denied access to their premises, equipment and/or stock and loss of supplies and customers.

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