

Keyboard are a supplier to the B to C and B to B Retail and Experiential and Event Market and as the Government shut our market down, we applied for a grant and rate relief from Tonbridge and showed evidence of companies that traded exactly as us and produced all their paperwork supplied directly from them and although Tom Tugenhat supported us and Tonbridge agreed to give it to us they didn't agree we qualified and suggested that we would be challenged at a later date, as a straight forward family business we wanted to do things correctly albeit we were struggling.

We are a family business of 31 years and decided that we were going through enough as a family and business that we wouldn't be able to afford to pay it back if challenged. Our rent was £40k and our rates £11k and we had staff of 27 and bills mounting up that in October our Platt landlord said we had to pay the rent or he had someone else to move in, if we had been supported by Tonbridge we would have been able to cover the costs as we would have been given the space to survive. So at the end of October we had to hand the property back as we just couldn't afford it and unfortunately we had to make more people redundant.

We live in Platt and some of staff are from Tonbridge and Malling and we have another personal business in Platt and Borough Green.

The only 2 Directors in Keyboard are myself and my Wife and we have been unable to take a salary from Keyboard for 12 months as we are directors and paid on dividends and our turn over has reduced from £3.5m to 400k with monthly costs to keep what is left of our business going.

We are asking for the period of time that we were based at Platt and no more to have the Rate relief applied, we just don't have the money and we are on our knees, we are local residents we cried out for help to stay in Platt and now we are asking for the period of time to have the Rate Relief applied.