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Mr A G Faulkner
2 Thwaites Howe
116 Craig Walk
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Our Ref: SJMM/JL

Contact: Mr McVey

Ext: 7231

Your Ref:

Date: 25th February 2008

Dear Mr Faulkner

Windermere Road Enhancement Scheme

I refer to your letter which I received on 11th February regarding a temporary suspension of non-domestic rate payments for businesses in and around Windermere village centre.

We are clearly aware of the situation in Windermere from ratepayers who have contacted us already and advised that they are suffering a major downturn in trade whilst the enhancement works are being carried out. Some are telling us this work is behind schedule and very concerned that this will have a negative impact on their Easter trade – especially with Easter being so early.

In such cases we have been establishing the facts and making decisions on an individual basis. We are very willing to continue with this approach and come to arrangements which are both sympathetic and sensible. This is a method we have used previously – for example the foot and mouth outbreak – and we would encourage you to advise ratepayers from local businesses to get in touch if they are experiencing difficulties.

We do not think it is appropriate to have a blanket policy of suspending collection from every business in the town.

Ratepayers can contact the Local Taxation team on 01539 797758 or email counciltax@southlakeland.gov.uk.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Simon McVey".

Simon McVey
Head of Revenues and Benefits