



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Minister of State
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By email: manager@britishfloristassociation.org

26 November 2020

Dear Tracy,

Thank you for your email of 4 November, regarding the national restrictions and garden centres. I am replying on behalf of the Department.

I understand that these remain extremely challenging times for our valuable retail sector. I can understand your and your members' disappointment that florists and flower wholesalers were not included in the list of businesses which have been permitted to remain open.

The decision to close non-essential retail was part of a wider package of measures to make clear that people should stay at home except for a limited set of exemptions – allowing non-essential retail to remain open would run contrary to that aim. Florists, nurseries, or foresters have been able to continue operating through click-and-collect and delivery services.

I am sure you were pleased to hear that from 2 December, we shall be returning to a system of tiers, and all non-essential retail will be able to open. I would also like to be very clear, that in England, all retailers will stay open at all local COVID alert levels, including at the very high level.

We will continue to do everything we can to protect businesses, their employees, and livelihoods, exploring all potential options so that we can address these challenging issues. Thank you for taking the time to write, I hope you find this information useful.

Yours sincerely,

RT HON KWASI KWARTENG MP
Minister of State for Business, Energy and Clean Growth