May 2020

Thank you for contacting me about planning permissions during the outbreak of Covid-19.

I understand your concern about the effect of planning permissions lapsing and I agree that clarity for communities is important at this time. I have ensured that my ministerial colleagues are aware of the situation and am told they are considering whether or not to introduce an extension for those permissions that are in danger of lapsing.

Local authorities should continue to focus on decision-making during the outbreak and seek to use all options available to them to facilitate this. This includes the use of technology where appropriate.

Amendments to existing regulations are also temporarily supplementing publicity requirements to put up site notices, issue neighbour notification letters and place newspaper advertisements. Planning authorities can instead publicise planning applications through social media and other online services.

During the outbreak, the Government is keeping open minded about how best we can keep the planning system functioning well at this time, and is working closely with all local authorities across the country.

Thank you again for taking time to contact me.



Yours faithfully,

**CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP**

**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY**