



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

**Luke Stephens**

*Head of Ministerial Correspondence*

**Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local  
Government**

Fry Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Chris Heaton-Harris MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

[www.gov.uk/mhclg](http://www.gov.uk/mhclg)

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Dear Chris Heaton-Harris MP

Thank you for your email of 19 July to Luke Hall MP, on behalf of your constituents of Overstone Lakes Caravan Park about the closure of the park between January and March each year. I have been asked to reply.

I should first explain that planning permission for holiday caravan parks will normally have restrictions on how long a park can be opened for each year. This means that holiday caravan owners must have a main home elsewhere and will be required to leave the site during the closed season.

In response to Covid-19 the majority of UK businesses including holiday caravan parks had to close and this has had a significant impact on the financial viability of all the parks. The Government believes that the temporary relaxation of these planning restrictions can play a vital role in helping those business to get up and running again.

On 14 July, the Government announced that while local planning authorities must have regard to their legal obligations, they should not seek to undertake planning enforcement action which would unnecessarily restrict the ability of caravan and holiday parks to extend their open season. Where local planning authorities consider it appropriate to require an application to vary relevant planning conditions they should prioritise the application and make an early decision to provide certainty to caravan and holiday park operators.

A copy of the written ministerial statement is available at <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2020-07-14/HLWS359/>. A list of questions and answers has also been published at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-planning-update-on-cultural-venues-and-holiday-parks--2>.

**LUKE STEPHENS**  
Head of Ministerial Correspondence