July 2020



Thank you for contacting me about the reopening of swimming pools.

I know many people are keen to get back into the pool and appreciate it is frustrating to see announcements on the restarting of many other sports.

I know this is especially of concern to elderly people whose main form of exercise is swimming and for parents of primary children who are missing their chance to learn to swim as part of the national curriculum.

However, as we begin to reopen the economy, it’s important that we do not increase the risk of transmission which is why “close proximity” venues such as swimming pools, water parks and spas will need to remain closed for now. There are concerns about transmission around points of contact within such facilities, like changing rooms due to the high volume of contacts.

I know Ministers are committed to reopening facilities as soon as it is safe to do so, including swimming pools. The Sport Working Group, led by the Sports Minister, feeds into the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport’s Cultural Renewal Taskforce and ensures strong sector and expert support for the co-development of guidelines and will help leisure facilities become Covid-secure and re-open as early as possible. The Taskforce can be contacted for further information at:

dcms.coronavirus@culture.gov.uk

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

**CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP**

**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY**