July 2020

Thank you for contacting me about wedding venue businesses.

I appreciate that this has been a difficult time for businesses in the events and wedding sectors. Likewise, I understand the disappointment of couples eager to tie the knot who have had to postpone or cancel their weddings due to the outbreak.

Now that restrictions have been eased, I am pleased that more and more businesses are reopening, and livelihoods are beginning to be restored. Wedding venue managers will have discretion over when they consider it safe to open in line with Covid-19 secure guidelines, and the officiant should also be content that it is safe to proceed. If a wedding venue does not feel it can be made safe and Covid-19 Secure, it should remain closed.

The full guidance is available online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-small-marriages-and-civil-partnerships/>

Guidance has been given on how weddings and civil ceremonies can start taking place in a way that is safe for attendants, couples and officiants. It is important that no more than 30 people are in attendance and that no food or drink is consumed except for the limited purpose of solemnisation. We know that airborne transmission is a real risk especially indoors, which is why there should be no singing or playing of instruments except under very narrow conditions.

For more information on what steps should be taken to keep your friends and loved ones safe, I recommend carefully reading through the public health guidance on this issue.

I hope that as the virus is brought under control, we can see the further relaxation of safety measures to everyone's benefit.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.



Yours faithfully,

**CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP**

**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY**