August 2020



Thank you for contacting me about COVID-19 and financial support for taxi and private hire vehicle (PHV) drivers and operators.

I absolutely recognise that this has been a difficult time for taxi and PHV drivers, and the trade more widely. I remain grateful for the important role that taxis and private hire vehicles carry out.

The Government is not considering a grant scheme specifically for taxi and PHV drivers. However, I would strongly encourage any driver or operator facing financial difficulty to take full advantage of the support on offer. Indeed, drivers may well be eligible to continue drawing support through the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme, while operators can still benefit from support through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, Bounce Back Loan Scheme and other initiatives.

The full range of support can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/financial-support-for-businesses-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

Guidance has also been issued to ensure that taxi and PHV services can safely resume where drivers are able to return to work. The guidance states that passenger should wear face coverings when using a taxi or PHV, and that a driver can, for example, ask the passenger to sit in the back left-hand seat if they are travelling alone.

I hope this response has provided some reassurance and thank you again for taking the time to contact me.



Yours faithfully,

**CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP**

**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY**