



Chris Heaton-Harris
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Tel: 020 7219 7048

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Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about the new three tier system of restrictions.

We must act decisively in response to this new and critical phase in the fight against coronavirus. It is worrying that there are more Covid patients in UK hospitals today than there were just before the whole country went into lockdown in March. I do sympathise with those that believe that the Government should go further or act differently. There are no easy decisions, unfortunately, but I am very clear that all my colleagues across Parliament are working together with the common objective of protecting lives and livelihoods.

The new simplified, tiered framework announced by the Prime Minister is designed so that individuals and businesses can clearly understand the rules in their local area, the restrictions in place and what they need to do to comply. I am hopeful it has provided clarity, which will encourage compliance with these measures.

There have been different approaches proposed. SAGE, for example, advocated a ‘circuit breaker’ approach during meetings in September, which I appreciate differs from the tiered framework the Government has announced.

What I would say, and what SAGE scientists have always been clear about, is that they are advisers to the Government on health and science. They recognise that those who govern have to take other factors into account. Aside from the health impacts, this virus presents a threat to our economy, our relationships, our communities and the places we gather in our neighbourhoods. It threatens the institutions that give our lives pleasure, identity and meaning, and the Government and all of us in Parliament must take all of these things into account in decision making.



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The evidence, the science, and what we know about economic impacts, is evolving all the time, and I will continue to keep the Government's approach under review, and to urge Ministers to approach emerging scientific advice with an open mind.

Thank you for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris'.

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY