



Chris Heaton-Harris
Member of Parliament for Daventry
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
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Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about supporting our pubs.

No-one wanted to see new national restrictions. This is a very difficult time, and I am very aware that many pub landlords are concerned about the weeks ahead. However, in light of the rapid spread of the virus across the country, I appreciate why the new restrictions are necessary. Without further action, the NHS could be overwhelmed and more lives lost. It is vital that we act decisively in response to this new and critical phase in the fight against the virus. There are no easy decisions, but I know that my colleagues across Parliament share passionately the common objective of protecting lives and livelihoods.

While the closure of pubs will be difficult to bear, the Government is providing significant support for hospitality businesses over the next few weeks. Every business forced to close will receive grants of up to £3,000 a month under the Local Restrictions Support Grant and the Government is providing local authorities with a further £1.1 billion to support businesses in their area. The Coronavirus Job Retention scheme has also been extended allowing employees to receive 80% of their current salary for hours not worked up to a maximum of £2,500.

The selling of takeaway food and alcohol are permitted. The sale of takeaway alcohol should be done safely via delivery or pre-order collection and in accordance with other restrictions.

At this time of uncertainty, I believe that all involved must also consider adjusting restrictions as new evidence emerges. Please be assured that evidence continues to be collected and assessed on the impact of the pandemic on the hospitality sector, and the best way to help, and we must look forward to an easing of restrictions as soon as possible.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY

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