



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 casinos.

I appreciate your concerns about the impact of coronavirus on casinos. Like many other industries up and down the country, casinos have been particularly hard hit by the restrictions imposed and I know the Government is doing all it can to ensure they remain viable over the months ahead.

I do welcome the Government's engagement with the gambling industry in recent months. I understand that officials from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport have been in regular contact with the Betting and Gaming Council as well as individual casino operators to discuss the impact of coronavirus restrictions on their businesses. Discussions are ongoing and have included consideration of potential measures to reduce risk, such as the withdrawal of alcohol sales. However, I am unaware of any proposals being brought forward specifically for the gambling industry. While I understand that this must be frustrating for you, I am pleased with the actions the Government has taken to support businesses and employees during this period.

In light of the introduction of national restrictions in November, the Chancellor announced that workers across the UK would benefit from increased support with a five-month extension of the furlough scheme into Spring 2021. Furthermore, the Government backed loans and the Future Fund will be extended until the end of January, as well as an ability to top-up bounce back loans.

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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