



January 2021

*Dear Constituent,*

Thank you for contacting me about support for hospitality businesses.

Thank you also for pointing out the Westminster Hall debate that took place on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021. While I was to attend, I look forward to reading the Hansard report on what was discussed and the Minister's response to this extremely important matter.

I absolutely know that many hospitality businesses are experiencing very serious challenges because of the Covid-19 outbreak. The new variant and the announcement of new restrictions across England came as a mighty blow to many hospitality businesses, including pubs, restaurants and cafes operating in my constituency and beyond.

Under these new restrictions, all hospitality venues are required to close in England, including cafes, restaurants, pubs, bars and social clubs, with the exception of providing food and non-alcoholic drinks for takeaway (until 11pm), click-and-collect and drive-through. If a business offers delivery, they may continue to provide all food and drink via delivery, including alcohol.

To help support hospitality businesses through this difficult time action has been taken and businesses have benefited from a combination of grants, funds, Government-backed loans and a business rates holiday. This has included business interruption loans, bounce back loans and the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) which has supported 1.4 million hospitality jobs. The CJRS has been extended until the end of April 2021. All retail, hospitality and leisure businesses will benefit from paying no business rates for the 2020-21 financial year, regardless of their rateable value. This relief applies to over 350,000 properties and is worth almost £10 billion.

Eligible closed hospitality businesses may receive grants of up to £3,000 per month. Furthermore, in light of the England-wide restrictions, the Chancellor has announced additional grants for closed businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sector of up to £9,000.

In addition, the temporary reduction in VAT (5 per cent from 20%) for hospitality and tourism businesses has been extended until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.



**Chris Heaton-Harris**  
Member of Parliament for Daventry  
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA  
Tel: 020 7219 7048

The Government has also extended the business eviction ban until the end of March 2021 to support businesses worst affected by the pandemic, such as pubs, bars and restaurants, rebuild over the winter period.

In addition, suppliers to badly hit sectors such as hospitality may also be able to access the Discretionary Grant Fund which provides business support grants to businesses affected by the Covid-19 crisis at the discretion of Local Authorities. I will continue to raise concerns from suppliers with Ministerial colleagues.

I am aware that some hospitality businesses have called for the business rates holiday and the temporary reduction in VAT for hospitality and tourism businesses to be extended.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer is keeping the situation under close review to ensure that the most effective support can be made available when necessary. Likewise, the restrictions in place and will be kept under regular review and like everyone else, I will continue to follow any developments closely.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

**CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP**  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY**