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Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about weddings.

I know these past months have been difficult for many people. I also recognise the frustration people feel about restrictions on very important events in their lives. I can imagine the disappointment of many couples eager to tie the knot and the months of planning behind organising a wedding for friends and family. I know some people will have postponed their wedding only to find restrictions are still in place on the new date.

Unfortunately, lockdown restrictions dictate that weddings and civil partnership ceremonies must only take place with up to 6 people, not including those working. In addition, such ceremonies should only take place in exceptional circumstances, for example, an urgent marriage where one of those getting married is terminally ill or is to undergo debilitating treatment or life-changing surgery. In addition to this, ceremonies may only take place in Covid-19 secure venues or in public outdoor spaces unless in exceptional circumstances.

I understand that this news will offer little consolation to couples that have had to place their life plans on hold and postpone or cancel bookings.

You may wish to read the guidance published by the Competition and Markets Authority regarding weddings. This provides further information on refunds and the impact of lockdown on scheduled services and events. The guidance can be found at this address:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wedding-services-coronavirus-covid-19-cancellations-and-refunds/>

At a time of crisis such as this, it is always a challenge to find the right balance between keeping people safe and providing comfort by letting people gather in the company of others. My hope is that the new temporary measures will help reduce the number of cases to a point where we can safely gather in larger groups without having to worry about risking the lives of those closest to us.

I am aware that the Prime Minister will be making a statement on the roadmap for easing restrictions on the 22nd February 2021 and I expect this to include a plan for weddings.

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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