



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

March 2021

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about fuel prices.

I welcome the fact that the decision to freeze fuel duty for eleven consecutive years has saved the average driver over £1,600 compared to the pre-2010 escalator.

Cars are essential to many people here in my Daventry constituency and I conveyed your comments and the research of Cebr and FairFuelUK on fuel duty to my colleagues at the Treasury.

For the first time since 1926, money raised through car tax (Vehicle Excise Duty) is now being spent directly on the roads. Around £28bn is being invested in England's strategic and local roads, an amount equivalent to all VED receipts. It was also announced in the recent Spending Review that £1.7 billion has been made available for local highway authorities in England (outside London) for 2021-2022 to improve the condition of local roads and associated infrastructure.

A new £2.5 billion Pothole Fund is running between 2020/21 and 2024/25 to help local authorities fill-in around 50 million potholes across the country and stop potholes forming in the first place.

My colleagues at the Treasury have also emphasised that any future fuel duty rates will be considered in the context of the UK's commitment to reach net-zero emissions by 2050.

It is worth noting that the fuel duty freeze comes at significant costs to the Exchequer, and that £67bn has been spent on freezing fuel duty and another £46bn will be spent by the end of 2025.

I obviously support the Government's legally binding target for the UK to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. While it is important to encourage active travel and greater use of public transport to help drive down emissions and improve air quality, the reality is that for many commuters and businesses it is simply not possible to forgo using a vehicle in all situations. We have to recognise that the transition to electric and alternatively-fuelled vehicles will play a crucial role in helping us reach net zero carbon emissions, so it is important that our local, major and strategic roads are fit for purpose, both now and in the future.

Thus the Government is investing £350 million in green fuels for heavy industry. This includes a particular focus on aviation delivered through the establishment of Jet Zero Council to steer the UK's efforts to make net-zero long-haul flying a reality.

I know the Chancellor is committed to conducting a review on reform of the aviation tax landscape and I look forward to seeing this review come to fruition in due course.



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The potential impacts of Direct Air Capture (DAC) and the possibilities of CO2 neutral fuels are exciting and I know my ministerial colleagues are committed to ensuring our future tax regime encourages innovation and contributes to Britain's net zero ambitions.

Thank you again 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**