



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

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Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about the Lessons Learned Report published by the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee and the Health and Social Care Committee.

I appreciate all the concerns about the contents of the Report, and I can assure you that the Government is committed to learning the lessons of the pandemic. That is why the Prime Minister has announced a full public inquiry which will take place next year.

Throughout the pandemic, the Government has been guided by scientific and medical experts. The Prime Minister and my ministerial colleagues took quick and decisive action, helping to save lives and protect the NHS. The vaccination programme alone has saved more than 130,000 lives and prevented over 24.3 million infections. Over 85% of adults have received a vaccination and nearly 80% have received two doses of a vaccine.

In only a few months, the largest testing network in UK history was developed with tests increasing from a few thousand a day to over a million. Over 18.3 million people have now been contacted by NHS Test and Trace – helping to slow the spread of the virus and save lives across the country.

The approach has always been to protect the NHS, save lives and ensure as many people as possible are protected from the virus. Herd immunity has never been a part of the pandemic strategy.

From the start of the pandemic in early 2020, my colleagues in Government have done everything they could to protect care homes including placing residents and staff in the highest priority group for vaccination. Guidance for the sector was first issued in February 2020 and remains under constant review. Almost £2.4 billion has also been provided for adult social care in addition to over £6 billion of funding made available to local authorities to address pressures on their services.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY