



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

September 2018

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about so-called 'no fault' divorce.

Marriage is one of the most important institutions we have. The principles of long term commitment and responsibility which underpin it bind society together and make it stronger, and I am pleased the Government is of the same view. For example, in 2015 married couples were enabled to transfer £1,060 of their tax-free income to their husband or wife, where the highest earner is a basic rate taxpayer.

The end of a marriage is an extremely painful time for any couple and I am aware of the strength of feeling on this issue. It is important to note, however, that Parliament has determined that the law should provide for divorce only if the marriage has irretrievably broken down. One way of demonstrating that is to cite a period of separation. While some are concerned that the periods required are too long, there are many things that need to be balanced when considering whether reform is necessary.

The debate about removing fault from divorce is long standing, and the Government has said it will study the evidence for change, but will not rush to a conclusion. In the meantime I will continue to follow this issue with interest.

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