



January 2021

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about support for entertainment venues and cinemas, during the pandemic.

I recognise the immense value that entertainment venues bring to local communities. They provide much needed social interaction for people across all ages, so it is regrettable that the current national lockdown prohibits them from opening. The reason for this is that a rapid rise in infections, hospital admissions and case rates across the country means that our hospitals are under more pressure now than at any other point throughout the pandemic.

I do, however, welcome the support provided by the Chancellor to assist individuals and businesses over the next few months. Following the introduction of national restrictions on the 5th November, it was announced that the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme would be extended until the end of March – protecting millions of jobs across the four nations of the United Kingdom (later extended until the end of April).

Furthermore, the Government announced plans to extend existing Government-backed loan schemes and the Future Fund to the end of March 2021, and an ability to top-up Bounce Back Loans. For information on Government grants and loans during coronavirus, please search: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support>

The Chancellor recently announced that £4.6billion has been made available in new lockdown grants to support businesses and protect jobs. Businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors are to receive a one of grant worth up to £9,000 per property to help them through to the Spring. Furthermore, a £594million discretionary fund has been made available to support other impacted businesses. This comes in addition to £1.1billion further discretionary grant funding for Local Authorities, as well as Local Restrictions Support Grants worth up to £3,000 a month.



Chris Heaton-Harris

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Since the start of the pandemic, a broad range of support has been made available to the hospitality and leisure sectors, including for cinemas. This includes a one-year business rates holiday worth over £10 billion as well as a temporary reduction to VAT. 42 cinemas from across England have received a cash boost worth £650,000 from the £1.57billion Culture Recovery Fund in the first awards made by the British Film Institute. This is the first tranche of money from the £30 million fund for independent cinemas.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris'.

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