



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

December 2020

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about new nuclear power.

Nuclear has provided the UK with electricity for more than 60 years and nuclear energy currently provides around 20% of the UK's electricity needs. Nuclear will continue to have an important role to play in the UK's energy future as we transition to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

The eight existing nuclear power stations are owned and operated by EDF Energy. EDF is expected to generate electricity from these stations for as long as it is economically viable and safe to do so. When a nuclear power station comes to the end of its generating life, it will need to be decommissioned. For example, Hartlepool is currently expected to operate until 2024 when EDF will decommission it, which will continue to provide jobs at the site.

New nuclear projects in the UK are developer-led and it is for developers to decide whether or not to pursue building a nuclear power plant at a specific site.

I know nuclear security is a top priority for the UK Government. To satisfy our strong legal, regulatory and national security requirements, which are world-leading, all critical infrastructure investment, including nuclear, is subject to thorough scrutiny. All civil nuclear operators are answerable to our robust and independent regulator, the Office for Nuclear Regulation.

I welcome that the Prime Minister included nuclear in his Ten Point Plan to achieve net zero and eradicated the UK's contribution to climate change. The Government will support the next generation of nuclear power plants to generate low carbon electricity. £525 million is being invested to help develop large and smaller-scale nuclear plants, and research and develop new advanced modular reactors. I am encouraged that this could create 10,000 green jobs.

Ultimately, nuclear will play an important role in achieving net zero and I will continue to follow any developments in this sector closely.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,



**Chris Heaton-Harris**

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

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