



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

STATEMENT ON COVID TIER FOR LINCOLNSHIRE

30 November 2020

As we have outlined publicly before now, we are profoundly disappointed to find that our Lincolnshire constituencies have been placed in Tier 3 by the Government. Throughout this past weekend, we have each been engaged in discussions with the Chief Whip, the wider whips office, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, the Health Department and the Prime Minister to outline our strong disagreement with the assigned tier for our county.

On the 29th Sir John Hayes MP and Gareth Davies MP wrote formally to the Prime Minister to urge the Government to review their decision and to look at a much more targeted, localised approach. We believe the arbitrary county-wide approach announced last week does not adequately take into account the actual patterns of travel and consequent interactions of our residents. This afternoon, we met with the Health Secretary, Matt Hancock MP, to discuss this further. We made it clear to the Secretary of State, that we cannot accept this unreasonable decision to move areas such as Stamford and Spalding into the highest tier when Peterborough, Norfolk and Rutland are in Tier 2. West Lindsey also has a lower rate of infection than some London boroughs that are in Tier 2. We laid out the case on behalf of our constituents and our many pubs, restaurants and cafes.

Given the Government has already committed to look at these matters again once it has had time to consider the post-lockdown data, we seek an immediate review based on the information we have provided, with a view to South Lincolnshire being moved from tier three to two, ideally before, but at the latest on the 16th December.

The vote on Tuesday 1 December, will enable the country to move from a strategy of national lockdown to a tier system which as a broad approach we support because even at Tier 3 it allows for most of our businesses, gyms and sports to reopen – this is preferable to a stricter national lockdown. Clearly, we need to ensure that such a localised approach however, is accurate and matches the specific rate, the declining nature of the rate and the natural movement of our residents.

In addition, the vote on Tuesday is to decide whether to provide a 5 day easing of restrictions for the Christmas period to enable families to meet and enjoy the festivities. We of course want to support these measures but we stress that it is vital that our current tier level is re-assessed with a view to moving it down within the next two weeks.

With this in mind, it would be with reluctance that unless the Government commits to the reconsideration outlined herein, we could not support the arrangements put in place.

We eagerly await a response from the Government.

Rt Hon Sir John Hayes CBE MP
South Holland and Spalding

Rt Hon Sir Edward Leigh MP
Gainsborough

Gareth Davies MP
Grantham and Stamford