



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

*From the Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP  
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care*

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1 December 2020

To: Sir John Hayes MP

CC: Gareth Davies MP

Dear Sir John,

Thank you for meeting with me yesterday with Sir Edward Leigh MP and Gareth Davies MP to discuss the decision to place Lincolnshire in Local Covid Alert Level Very High (Tier 3).

I understand the force of your arguments on the particulars of South Holland and South Kesteven and I know you made them in the best interests of your constituents, as you always have done.

As I made clear in our meeting, we will formally review the data and tier allocations for all area across England on 16 December and every two weeks thereafter, and I can assure you that we will again assess each area individually, including areas within Lincolnshire such as South Lincolnshire, on its own merits based on the five criteria we set out in the Winter Plan, based on public health advice including from the Joint Biosecurity Centre and the Chief Medical Officer, and taking into account the very challenging impact of Tier 3 measures.

It is important to note that we know from lived experience over recent months that where narrow carve-outs take place in the face of higher rates in neighbouring areas, time and again these carved-out areas simply catch up, and often overtake their neighbouring areas.

I know your constituents and people right across Lincolnshire are working hard to help get this virus under control.

I very much hope that South Lincolnshire's case rates continue to improve, and such progress will of course be factored into these decisions in each of the formal reviews.

Yours ever,

**MATT HANCOCK**