

HARRIETT BALDWIN MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

November 30, 2020

Thank you for contacting me about the end of the 28-day period of enhanced national restrictions and the introduction of a new tiering system which would see Worcestershire enter the 'high alert' second tier this week if approved in Parliament.

Over the course of the last few weeks, I have been involved in detailed discussions with the Government as part of the Coronavirus Recovery Group. Thanks to the pressure this group has exerted, we now do get regular updates in Parliament and get to vote on restrictions. Thanks to this pressure, non-essential retail and personal care is reopening, most sports are re-starting and opening hours have been extended to 2300.

I know that many of you have made extraordinary sacrifices over the course of this year and I share your concerns about the economy, the implications for our wider public health and the principle of civil liberties. As your elected representative, I have been sharing these strongly held opinions with my colleagues and policy makers.

You may be interested in reading my recent article in the Times which sets out my own views on the way forward https://www.harriettbaldwin.com/pdf/Red_Box_Blanket_Lockdown.pdf.

I am pleased to report that, over the weekend, the Prime Minister has moved significantly on some of our group's principle areas of concern – including setting a date for future reviews and votes in Parliament, improving Test, Trace and Isolate, adopting more targeted measures and accessing more data about the economic and wider implications of lockdown. Further support for affected hospitality businesses has also been announced. I now feel that it will be possible to vote for a further short period of controls as we await the rollout of the vaccines.

Thank you again for contacting me and I know your views are being heard.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "H-Baldwin".

Harriett Baldwin MP
Member of Parliament for West Worcestershire