

PETER GIBSON MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

June 2020

Dear Consultant

Thank you for your email.

Our challenge is to find a way forward that preserves our hard-won gains while easing the burden of the lockdown. This is a supremely difficult balance to strike as we must not jeopardise everything, we have striven to achieve by proceeding too far and too fast. It is vital that the Government is not driven by political expediency or economic gain as an end in itself, but by data, science and public health.

The Prime Minister commissioned a comprehensive review of the guidance relating to people keeping 2 metres apart, which considered advice from a range of experts including the chief medical officer and the chief scientific adviser, as well as behavioural scientists.

The outcome of this review is that, while people should still keep two metres apart wherever possible, if they cannot they should keep a social distance of 'one metre plus', while taking appropriate mitigations to reduce the risk of transmission. I welcome this move as we are now able to further ease lockdown measures. I am confident that this decision was taken on the basis of the scientific advice. I must reiterate that this change only applies when absolutely necessary, and if you are out in public you should continue to remain two metres about from other households if possible.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to contact me and if I can ever be any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter Gibson".

PETER GIBSON MP

Member of Parliament for Darlington

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