



Department for
Digital, Culture,
Media & Sport

Nigel Huddleston MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of
State for Sport, Tourism and Heritage
4th Floor
100 Parliament Street
London SW1A 2BQ

E: enquiries@dcms.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/dcms

13 October 2020

Giles Watling MP
giles.watling.mp@parliament.uk

Our Ref:
MC2020/19714/GM

Dear Giles,

Thank you for your letter of 11 September about support for the tourism sector during the coronavirus crisis.

The government recognises the extremely difficult circumstances for tourism businesses and workers. My officials and I continue to receive daily updates about the significant impacts this is having across the sector. By now many tourism workers will have made use of the government's comprehensive package of support to protect businesses and workers against the current economic emergency. This includes the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme, VAT payment deferrals for firms, various generous loan schemes, as well as business rates relief and grants for eligible leisure and hospitality businesses.

To support the sector's recovery, you will know that the government has also cut the rate of VAT applied on most tourism and hospitality-related activities from 20% to 5% until March. In August, we also introduced the Eat Out to Help Out scheme to encourage people back into hospitality settings once again.

VisitBritain recently launched an Autumn campaign, 'Escape the Everyday', to help extend the tourism season. To reassure holidaymakers, VisitBritain have introduced an industry standard quality mark that businesses can acquire if they meet Covid-19 secure guidance. This is being used by over 30,000 businesses across the UK. <https://www.visitbritain.org/business-advice/were-good-go-industry-standard>.

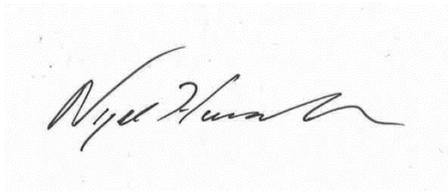
In April 2020, VisitEngland set up a £1.3 million DMO Resilience Fund to support local tourism organisations in England so that they could continue to assist local businesses. In September, VisitEngland launched a further £1 million fund designed to provide emergency financial assistance to those DMOs that are now at acute risk of closure, enabling them to maintain their operations during the next six months.

You may have also seen that the government is encouraging local planning authorities to exercise their discretion in relation to planning conditions for caravan, campsites and holiday parks, in order to help these businesses extend their open season.



We will continue to engage with the sector on how we can most effectively aid tourism's recovery. In the meantime, I encourage tourism businesses and organisations to continue to make full use of the forms of government support available to them.

Please check <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response> for information about the government's response to the crisis. This page points to the very latest health, social and economic guidance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Huddleston', is centered on a light-colored rectangular background.

Nigel Huddleston MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Sport, Tourism and Heritage