



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Luke Hall MP

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24th March 2020

Dear Colleague,

I welcomed the opportunity to speak with many of you at a meeting that was chaired by my colleague Nigel Huddleston MP last week regarding how we can use hotel accommodation to support our response to the COVID-19 outbreak. I am extremely grateful for those who have been able to offer accommodation to support rough sleepers off the streets or into more suitable accommodation.

Yesterday the Government stepped up measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus. These are vitally important steps to encourage people to stay at home, and in doing so protect the NHS and save lives. As part of this package certain businesses, including retail selling non-essential goods, and other venues must close. Hotels, hostels and B&Bs going about normal business are included.

However there are exceptions, such as providing accommodation to key workers and vulnerable people. In particular, I want to make clear that where hotels, hostels, and B&Bs are providing rooms to support homeless people, through arrangements with local authorities and other public bodies, they should remain open. Rooms may also be provided to frontline homelessness workers who are included in the key worker category.

The guidance, available at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-advice-for-accommodation-providers>, has been updated to make these exceptions clear.

If you have closed services for homeless people today as a result of the measures announced this week, I would be very grateful if you could reverse these decisions as soon as possible.

Thank you very much for everything you are doing to save lives and provide care for some of the most vulnerable in our society.

Yours ever,

LUKE HALL MP