



**Jerome Mayhew MP**  
Member of Parliament for Broadland  
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA  
Tel: 020 7219 4733

Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer QC MP  
Leader of the Opposition  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Andy Burnham  
Mayor of Greater Manchester  
Churchgate House  
56 Oxford Street  
Manchester  
M1 6EU

17<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Sir Keir and Mr Burnham,

**RE: Covid Measures**

We are writing to you as MPs representing constituencies that are currently designated ‘Medium’ in the Local Covid Alert Level system.

Firstly, we would like to express our deepest sympathy and solidarity with Greater Manchester. This virus is not just taking loved ones away before their time, it is also wreaking havoc to businesses and communities. We know the people of Greater Manchester have already been struggling under a higher level of restriction for much of the last few months. Our hearts go out to them and we hope and pray they will overcome the challenge they face before too long.

On behalf of our constituents, we feel compelled to write to you to ask you to engage with the government’s regional approach to tackling the virus. We know you are calling for a national lockdown now but urge you to reconsider.

As you know, there are stark differences between the prevalence of the virus in Manchester and much of the north of England compared to other parts of the country. In Manchester, the latest data shows cases have now reached 474 per 100,000, while in Liverpool there are 678 cases per 100,000.

Yet the comparable numbers are much lower in the other areas - for example, 47 per 100,000 in Norfolk, 18 per 100,000 on the Isle of Wight, 32 per 100,000 in Cornwall, 38 per 100,000 in Herefordshire and 39 per 100,000 in Somerset.



Given this disparity, it does not make sense to shut down the whole country when the virus is spiking in particular locations. Our constituents, like yours, have made many sacrifices to get - and keep - the virus under control in our areas. We are deeply worried about the prospect of having to go through the pain of another national lockdown.

None of these judgments are cost free, but we want to reinforce the fact there are severe costs of a national lockdown in areas which currently have low transmission. The cost of a national lockdown in our constituencies would be tens of thousands of jobs in hospitality and leisure put at risk needlessly, viable businesses being put on the brink, not to mention the toll on our constituents' mental health and access to routine NHS treatment.

The devastating facts of the situation are that under either course of action, businesses would close in Manchester, whereas a regional approach offers some protection to businesses in areas of low prevalence. In the long run, a national lockdown which hits the economy across the whole country would be even more damaging to Manchester's businesses.

It is very clear to us - and the people we represent - that the local and regional approach is the right response to the current situation. We urge you to work with the Government to get the virus under control in Greater Manchester, so we can all avoid the pain of another national lockdown.

Yours sincerely,

Jerome Mayhew MP

Scott Mann MP

Duncan Baker MP

Dr Dan Poulter MP

James Wild MP

Tom Hunt MP

George Freeman MP

Anthony Browne MP

Chloe Smith MP

Selaine Saxby MP

Dr Caroline Johnson MP

Cherilyn Mackrory MP

Bill Wiggin MP

Marcus Fysh MP

Rt Hon Damian Green MP

Sheryl Murray MP

Marco Longhi MP

Anne-Marie Morris MP

Danny Kruger MP

Steve Double MP