Coronavirus update

I know that people will continue to be extremely worried about Coronavirus, both from a health perspective, and the impact that it is already having on jobs and the economy.

This week, some lockdown restrictions have been lifted. You can now spend time outdoors, in a group of up to six people from different households whilst maintaining social distancing; you can visit car showrooms and some children have returned to school.

I know that these changes will come with a mixture of both anxiety and relief. We all want to see our friends and family again and return to some sense of normality but if we are to do that, we must do so safely.

But if we do want to hug our friends and family again, if we want to attend large gatherings again, and if we want to continue to protect the NHS from being overwhelmed, then we must continue to follow the Government’s guidelines strictly.

Up-to-date guidance, on what you can and cannot do, can be found here: https://bit.ly/3cEqtwB

I would like to thank everyone who has made unbelievable sacrifices to follow the Government’s lockdown guidance. My thoughts are with those who have missed out on key life milestones, missed out on spending time with friends and family, and tragically missed out on saying goodbye to loved-ones. Whilst it feels like we are beginning to gain back some freedom, please remember that the Coronavirus pandemic is not over yet.

My team and I are busy helping constituents navigate the guidance and various furlough and support schemes that have been introduced. I am also helping constituents and local businesses fight for their rights to access what they are entitled to.

If any of my constituents have any questions or concerns about the lockdown restrictions or anything else, then please do email me on: sharon.hodgson.mp@parliament.uk

Rolls-Royce announcement

Rolls-Royce has announced that it will be making job cuts across the country, including at the factory in Washington. I know that this news will be extremely concerning for many families. I have been working closely with a cross-party group of MPs with Rolls-Royce plants in their constituencies and Union reps at the factory in Washington, and will be doing everything I can to support them.

I want to make it clear that companies such as Rolls-Royce should be using financial support schemes put in place by the Government and should not use this Coronavirus pandemic to cut highly-skilled jobs in the UK. As a company that has received significant taxpayer funding in recent years, they should be doing everything they can to protect UK jobs.

With approximately two-thirds of total employees in the UK working in the civil aerospace business, this news highlights the urgent need for the Government to ensure a robust plan is in place to protect jobs in the aviation sector.
put pressure on them and urge them to provide this vital support. I welcome the legal challenge that has been brought by Sustain UK and the Good Law Project against the Department for Education this week and hope that it will be successful in granting children access to the food they deserve.

CampaignForce meeting

As part of my role as the Shadow Minister for Veterans, I held a meeting with CampaignForce, a social enterprise whose mission is to inspire, train and coach those who have served, and to stand up and serve again in politics, whether as a Councillor, MP or Assembly Member, and they work with people from the military community who aspire to serve in public life.

I am grateful to all those who joined the meeting, and would encourage veterans to look at their work and upcoming events: https://campaignforce.co.uk

Question on Veterans’ Helpline in the Commons

In May, I used the virtual Parliamentary proceedings to take part in Defence Questions for the first time as a Shadow Minister for Veterans, and asked why it was that the Veterans’ UK helpline was closed due to Coronavirus? With many veterans taking part in voluntary activities throughout the UK, and many needing support themselves, it was unacceptable that the telephone service closed when many other workplaces around the country were able to continue throughout the pandemic.

I will continue to pressure the Government in my role as Shadow Minister for Veterans, to ensure this helpline is fully re-opened so that veterans are getting the support they both need and deserve.