

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2020



SIR GRAHAM BRADY

Member of Parliament for Altrincham and Sale West

Dear all, welcome to the last newsletter of 2020. Christmas will be a little different this year and as the countdown continues, I wanted to bring you an update. On the last day of November, I was interviewed by Mark Littlewood of the Institute for Economic Affairs:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-5Jk8mRmlQ&feature=youtu.be>

In the Commons



I spoke in the Commons about the importance of freedom:

<https://www.theyworkforyou.com/debates/?id=2020-12-01b.162.0#g177.0>

<https://parliamentlive.tv/Download/Index/1f85fbe2-feab-4f31-8ac3-bded536513a2>

Click here to watch a clip : <https://parliamentlive.tv/Download/Index/1f85fbe2-feab-4f31-8ac3-bded536513a2>

- (Citation: HC Deb, 1 December 2020, c175)



Graham Brady Chair, Conservative Party 1922 Committee **1:48 pm, 1st December**

2020

May I say at the outset that I think the [Prime Minister](#)'s instincts in this matter are not so different from mine, and that I recognise the difficulty and the burden that he carries? This is a difficult matter and there are difficult decisions to take.

Freedom is not an absolute, but it should be regarded as precious. There should be always the strongest possible presumption in its favour. If the Government are to take away fundamental liberties from the people whom we represent, they must demonstrate beyond question that they are acting in a way that is both proportionate and absolutely necessary. Today, I believe the Government have failed to make that compelling case. The benefit of the doubt that this House extended to Government in March and since is harder to take for granted in December. Six weeks ago, many of us made the case that the curfew policy at 10 pm was not just unnecessary, but counter-productive. Today, the Government apparently agree that the 10 pm curfew makes no sense. A month ago, the Government insisted that golf, tennis, bowls and gyms were unsafe. Now it seems that they are not.

Before the second lockdown, I invited the House to consider whether Government had the right to make it illegal for people to see their children, their grandchildren or their elderly relatives, and whether Government had the right to ban collective worship or to take away the right to work to support your family. Different people—different Members of this House—will draw the line in different places, but we must all accept that these are fundamental freedoms of our constituents, and we should insist on compelling evidence before we allow them to be compromised. That is why I asked for an impact assessment a month ago, for transparent publication of the criteria that would be used to decide in which tier our constituents would be placed, but also—crucially—for the weighting that would be applied to each of those criteria.

My constituents in the borough of Trafford have been placed unfairly in tier 3 in spite of covid test figures that are well below the average for England. Currently, the rate is 127.7 per 100,000 and falling rapidly, but I looked in vain at the document published late yesterday for any explanation or any route being set out as to how we would reach that lower tier. There was no serious attempt in that document to provide an answer. In the absence of that serious and compelling case, I have no choice but to oppose these measures.

In the Media

Click here to read my article for the Telegraph:

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/12/01/matter-principle-fundamental-liberties-government-has-no-arguments/>

I appeared on the BBC's Newsnight:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000qf39/newsnight-15122020>

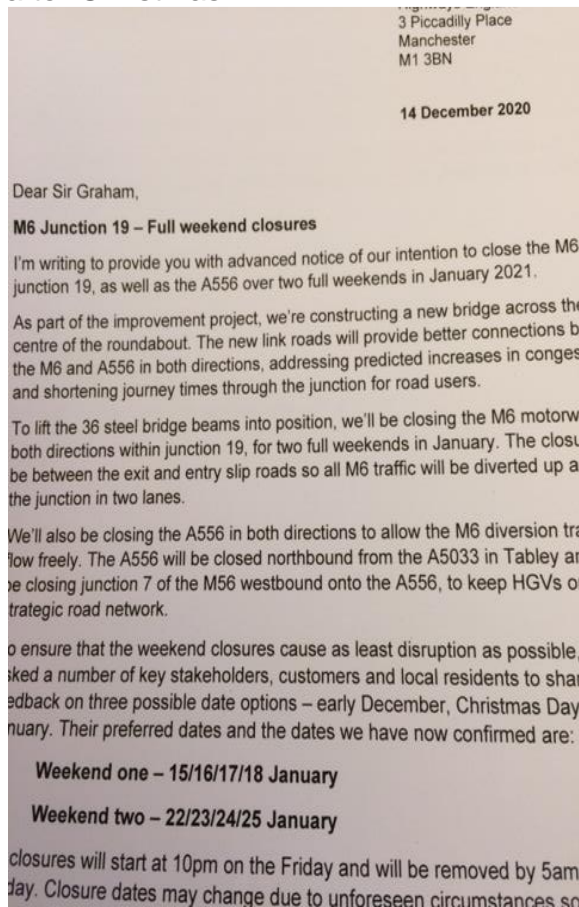


Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP

The Prime Minister came to speak to colleagues at the last 'hybrid' meeting of the 1922 Committee yesterday; he put in a barnstorming performance which went down as well as possible on Zoom...

Useful information:

I received the following letter from Highways England regarding travel disruption after Christmas:




Today I intervened during the statement from Matt Hancock who chose not to move Trafford from tier 3 I told him the statement: 'will be greeted with dismay across Greater Manchester. We have had 9 months of severe restrictions and Trafford has a lower rate than neighbouring Warrington and Cheshire that are in Tier 2 and lower than Bristol that has today been moved from Tier 3 to Tier 2., my constituents have been responsible. Will he tell me what more we need to do?'

That's all for now;
my last Advice surgery before Christmas is tomorrow at 4pm and will then resume in the New Year. In the meantime, I hope you have an enjoyable break and a peaceful Christmas.

The House rises today for the recess, although with the possibility of an agreement with the EU in prospect we could be recalled at short notice.

With best wishes to you and your family; let's hope that 2021 is a better one.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Graham Brady". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Sir Graham Brady MP

