

JAMES HEAPPEY MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP
Leader of the House of Commons
House of Commons
Westminster
SW1A 0AA

19th
April 2016

Dear Chris,

ROLE OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II CONFERENCE CENTRE IN PARLIAMENTARY RESTORATION AND RENEWAL PROJECT

I have been asked to write to the Committee by the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre and the wider UK events industry in my capacity as Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Events. As I understand, the QEII is under consideration as a possible site for the relocation of Parliament during the restoration of the Palace of Westminster.

May I ask that the Committee considers the impact that the use of the QEII will have on the London, and arguably UK wide, events industry. The centre is very successful; adding £122 million in economic benefit per annum to the economy, employing hundreds of Londoners and delivering an annual dividend to the Exchequer. Conferences and events hosted at the QEII fill local hotels, restaurants and provide business for local shops and services.

In recent years London has moved from 18th to 6th in the global rankings for event host cities and the Government has recognised the opportunity to further grow our visitor economy by promoting the UK's events industry. However, London has recently lost the Earls Court exhibition space and a city of this size and international prominence can now ill afford to lose another of its few remaining events venues.

Finally, whilst the usage of the QEII would have an almost complete impact on centre's business and a severe impact on those of its supply chain, it should also be noted that the current uncertainty around its usage is already having an impact on the centre's ability to attract major events. These events are invariably enticed to the centre a number of years ahead but I am told that this is proving difficult as event organisers are very much aware that the QEII might be pressed into parliamentary service.

Ideally, you might feel inclined to remove the QEII Conference Centre from your list of potential redeployment sites. If that cannot yet be the case, can I ask that you are at least sympathetic to the impact that this uncertainty is already having.

I have copied this letter to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media & Sport and Nick de Bois, the Chair of the Events Industry Board.

Yours ever,

Member of Parliament for the Wells Constituency

www.jamesheappey.org.uk

JAMES HEAPPEY MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Baroness Stowell of Beeston
Leader of the House of Lords
House of Lords
Westminster
SW1A 0AA

19th April 2016

Dear Tina,

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