



Cities Restart

Rt Hon Boris Johnson, MP
10 Downing Street
Westminster
London
SW1A 2AA

Wednesday 24 March 2021

Re: Maintaining the reopening timetable in England

Dear Prime Minister,

We write to encourage you to maintain the current reopening timetable in England, notwithstanding the unfortunate interruption in vaccine supply and rising cases in Europe. The UK vaccination programme is a huge success that has protected the most vulnerable in our society and it continues to meet the first of the four criteria that you announced in February. The other three criteria are also currently being met. Now, for reasons of both social and economic health, we must continue to reopen.

The rising public tension we witnessed this weekend is another indication that we are at a delicate point in dealing with this pandemic. We fully support your approach to this current lockdown to protect lives and save the NHS. It has been effective.

In addition to the world-beating vaccine programme you have put in place, we also have some of the most comprehensive testing. Expanding the use of testing will allow us to keep to your original timetable whilst also protecting against a third wave that our European neighbours are currently suffering.

We are a global trading nation. We urge you and the Global Travel Taskforce to adopt a pragmatic risk-based approach to international travel restrictions, which combines a safe countries list with testing and vaccine certification to create a form of health passport.

We can emerge from this crisis having delivered the most successful vaccination programme in the G7 and reopening in a way that avoids increased spread. This will send the powerful message to our friends around the World that the United Kingdom remains an international powerhouse, punching about above our weight economically, politically and culturally.

Please keep to the reopening timetable you set out in February, which will allow us to bounce-back rapidly from the economic turmoil caused by the pandemic and to rebuild our lives.

Yours sincerely,

Derek Ray-Hill, Managing Director, Cities Restart

Continued



Co-signed by:

Alex Hill, CEO, AEG Europe

Surinder Arora, Founder and Chair, Arora Group

Chris Skeith, CEO, Association of Event Organisers

Rachel Parker, Director, Association of Events Venues

Debbie Akehurst, CEO, BEE Midtown

Emma English, Executive Director, British Educational Travel Association

Simon Hughes, Chair, British Visits and Events Partnership

Chris Oglesby, CEO, Bruntwood; Chair, UnitedCity

Mark Jenkinson, Director, Crystal Associates

Gordon Dewar, CEO, Edinburgh Airport

Inderneel Singh, Managing Director, Edwardian Hotels London

Andrew Harrison, Director, Event Suppliers and Services Association

Jeremy Rees, CEO, ExCeL London

Craig Beaumont, Chief of External Affairs, Federation of Small Business

Gerald Kaye, Chief Executive, Helical PLC

Roger Hopher, Director, HGH Consulting

Mark Allan, CEO, Land Sec

Jon Davies, Managing Director, Levy Restaurants

David Winstanley, CEO, London Biggin Hill Airport

Robert Sinclair, CEO, London City Airport

Stewart Wingate, CEO, London Gatwick

Geeta Nanda, CEO, Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing

James Rook, Managing Director, Nimlok Limited

Emma Degg, CEO, North West Business Leadership Team

Kate Verah, Executive Director, The Old Vic Theatre

Mike Rooney, CEO, Resilience First

Monica Bewak, Director, Rosewood London

Julian Bird, CEO, Society of London Theatres & Producer of the Olivier Awards

Ros Morgan, CEO, South Westminster BIDS; Managing Director, Primera

Tim Darwell-Taylor, Managing Director, Topaz Health

Sean Collins, CEO, Uber Boat by Thames Clippers

Kate Nicholls, CEO, UK Hospitality

Peter Norris, Chair, Virgin

CC: Rt Hon Michael Gove, MP; Rt Hon Grant Shapps, MP.