

# TOM TUGENDHAT MBE MP



## HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

25 November 2020

The Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP  
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care  
Department for Health and Social Care  
39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU

Dear Matt,

We write as Members of Parliament representing communities across Kent and Medway. With around 1.85 million residents, Kent and Medway is one of the largest counties in the country by population. It is extremely diverse from communities bordering London and Surrey in the west, to the East Kent coast and Weald of Kent in the south.

The response to the pandemic by residents across Kent and Medway, our local NHS, Kent County Council and Medway Council has been excellent so far. It has helped keep cases low in many parts of the county. However, with some Districts starting to show some of the highest infection rates in the country, we strongly believe that any local lockdown should be conducted on a Borough or District level.

To give you an example, at the time of writing there are 180 cases in Sheppey East alone. This compares to just 137 in whole of Tunbridge Wells Borough, and just 3 in the rural south of Sevenoaks District. It is clear that the best way to tackle the pandemic, while also preventing unnecessary restrictions, is to approach this on, at the very most, a Borough or District basis.

Kent is a vast and varied county which showcases the best of our country. We must allow businesses to prosper and not be held back by restrictions not suitable for their area. We trust that the Government will introduce restrictions on a Borough or District basis to ensure that the right approach is used across each community.

Best wishes,

**THE RT HON GREG CLARK MP, Member of Parliament for Tunbridge Wells**  
**DAMIAN COLLINS MP, Member of Parliament for Folkestone and Hythe**  
**TRACEY CROUCH MP, Member of Parliament for Chatham and Aylesford**  
**THE RT HON SIR ROGER GALE MP, Member of Parliament for North Thanet**  
**HELEN GRANT MP, Member of Parliament for Maidstone and The Weald**  
**THE RT HON DAMIAN GREEN MP, Member of Parliament for Ashford**  
**TOM TUGENDHAT MP, Member of Parliament for Tonbridge and Malling**

**Member of Parliament for Tonbridge and Malling**

130 Vale Road, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1SP

01732 441 563 - [tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk) - [www.tomtugendhat.org.uk](http://www.tomtugendhat.org.uk)