

Steve Double MP

St Austell and Newquay



Office of Steve Double MP
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20 March 2020

SDD/JM/COVID19

An open letter on the COVID-19 pandemic and Cornwall

Dear friend,

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic sees us in unprecedented times for both Cornwall and the UK. This is likely to be the greatest challenge any of us will have faced in our lifetimes, and it is crucial we take it seriously.

It is important everyone follows the advice laid out by the Government to slow and stop the spread of this virus and do everything we can to support our essential public services, especially our NHS.

That includes avoiding non-essential travel.

By anyone's assessment a holiday at this time is not essential.

So therefore, regrettably we are asking people not to come on holiday to Cornwall at this time.

We need to stop spread of this virus and also need to protect our NHS and keep our supermarket shelves stocked. An influx of thousands of tourists in the coming weeks will put unnecessary pressure on our services.

As a supporter of the tourism and hospitality industry we fully understand the huge and grave challenges facing the sector at this time and why some businesses may want to take this opportunity to bring visitors to Cornwall.

However, this is first and foremost a medical and health crisis.

We must not underestimate how serious this is and our first priority has to be to protect the public from this dangerous virus.

We continue to press the Government for more measures to support all businesses affected by this crisis but the overriding concern has to be to keep people safe and well.

Please take all the appropriate steps to keep you and your family safe, and help Cornwall stay safe and well by avoid coming here on holiday at this time.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Double

Cllr Julian German