

Sir Greg Knight MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Leader of ERYC; Richard Burton

ERYC; Councillor Chad Charwick, Councillor John Copsey, Councillor Liam Dealtry, Councillor Mike Heslop-Mullens, Councillor Chris Matthews, Councillor Tim Norman, Councillor Andy Walker

Covid-19 and Tier restrictions in East Yorkshire

Sirs,

This letter is written from the heart as well as in desperation in light of the announcement of the “Tiers” today, as we have tears in our heart such is sadness in the continuing targeting of the hospitality industry.

Whilst not trying to dumb down the need to ensure there is control of Covid-19 virus, there is an extraordinarily strong feeling that this is not being done in a fair and controlled way. **The hospitality industry has many times asked for evidence on how and why the industry is being so severely punished with severe restrictions, and I believe all such requests have fallen on deaf ears. In fact, whilst they (not surprisingly) have not been highlighted I believe recent figures have suggested that only 1.6% of infections have been attributed to bars/pubs.**

Hospitality continues to receive an unfair hand in relation to restrictions, whereas it can be seen by all that it is the schools and universities that are causing the spikes as can be seen by the figures and graphs from September onwards. In contrast there was no marked increase in infection rates when we reopened on 4th July.

WHO SHOULD BE IN SCHOOL?	
Year 7	In school
Year 8	Self-isolation back in school Friday 20 th November
Year 9	100% of students should self-isolate back in school Tuesday 24 th November
Year 10	80 students should self-isolate back in school Monday 23 rd November 104 should attend as normal
Year 10	
Year 11	In school
Year 12	Self-isolation back in school Monday 23 rd November
Year 13	Self-isolation back in school Monday 23 rd November

A recent newsletter from Bridlington School.

Tier 2 restrictions

As mentioned above there is a strong feeling that hospitality is being unfairly treated, so I turn to the specific Tier 2 restriction of pubs etc only being able to sell alcohol with a meal. Since 4th July pubs have spent vast amount of time and money ensuring our premises are *Covid secure*. We have ensured with have adhered to all the rules including of course sanitisation, social distancing, track and trace etc. However, that does not seem enough, despite a tiny proportion of any transmission being in pubs etc we are now unfairly being further targeted with the “substantial meal” rule. This has the perverse effect that in general terms as *food* pubs are larger, they are permitted to entertain customers but smaller venues (not serving food) who are still able to social distance etc are not allowed to open. I would request this is looked at urgently.

We now turn to more local issues

Tier 3 restrictions

It has been long stated that restrictions will only be in place for a short time as possible and proportionate to the risk. However, this does not hold true to the Bridlington area.

According to the current figures the combined figure for Bridlington areas is 199, which is as it stands below the national figure. Just over the border in North Yorkshire the figure is 207, in fact the nearest district to Bridlington *Filey and Hunmanby* has a current rate of 258, more than 25% higher than Bridlington. Yet next Wednesday hospitality venues (serving food) in Filey and Hunmanby will be able to be open despite having an infection rate 25% higher than Bridlington. This is on top of the fact that one part of Scarborough down the road has a current infection rate of 597!

Further to this anyone who has an urgent medical issue is taken to the nearest major hospital which I'm sure you are aware is in Scarborough. It has now been stated that there are a number of factors which decide which Tier an area will be in, one of which is NHS capacity. So by virtue of Scarborough being the hospital for Bridlington and that town being in Tier 2 surely that should further underline that Bridlington should not be in the highest Tier?

It is **very** clear that this anomaly has been brought about by the *postcode lottery* of Bridlington being classed as EAST Yorkshire and not NORTH Yorkshire. I would appeal to you to champion this local area as being separate from Hull. In fact, so little thought has gone into this "East Yorkshire/Riding" is not mentioned at all in the list of places with restrictions;

Yorkshire and The Humber

- The Humber
- West Yorkshire
- South Yorkshire

There is no debate to be had that if it is too difficult to split out separate areas within the same County, in the list released today the areas of Slough/Berkshire, North/South Somerset/Taunton, Reading etc have all been split.

Far too many businesses are going to permanently close without easing of such severe restrictions on hospitality. I hope you will not be *trotting* out the old copy and paste statements about Government support. The small amount of support that is available to some businesses will never make up for the loss of trade in any month, let alone in the vital Christmas period. That trade is vital to cancel out the incredibly quiet trading months in the New Year.

We would request that in your own area of interest that you represent businesses such as ours with the concerns I have raised here, we await your reply.

Mark Bates
Three B's Micropub
2 Marshall Avenue
Bridlington

Stuart Fisher
Brid brewer & Tap Room
5, King Street
Bridlington

Nic Power
The Telegraph Inn
110, Quay Road
Bridlington

Bev Wynn
Brunswick Hotel
13 Manor Street
Bridlington

Lena Neverdal
Old Ship Inn
90 St John's Street
Bridlington

Andy Dunn
The Board Inn
60 High Street
Bridlington

Lisa Earnshaw
Corner Bar
38A Promenade
Bridlington