



## **FORTNIGHTLY UPDATE #86 - 29.07.2020**

Welcome to this latest update.

Parliament has now risen, and I'm delighted to be back at home in Cheltenham. Like many, we'll be 'staycating' this summer. After a short break this week (incidentally if you have children, I recommend blackberry picking on the Honeybourne Line, the dry ski slope in Gloucester, Birdland, and lots of walks up Leckhampton Hill!) I'll be back in harness for the rest of the summer. I'm looking forward to catching up with as many local people as possible, supporting individuals and businesses as we build back from the pandemic.

I have provided updates below on ministerial duties in the Ministry of Justice - including in relation to the **Domestic Abuse Bill** and also reforms which I'm leading on relating to the **signing of wills** during the pandemic.

Closer to home, there are updates about the **Air Balloon scheme** (still on track, but delayed by a last minute objection to the 'green bridge'). And there's a 'save the date' for a jobs opportunity event too: Cheltenham alone has received an estimated £100m plus in Government support through grants and furlough etc, but we know that the coming months may be tough. So I'm teaming up with the other Gloucestershire MPs to support Richard Graham MP's (Gloucester) **jobs fair on 11 September at Gloucester Rugby in Kingsholm**. Details below.

As I write this, we are now just days away from the start of the Chancellor's 'Eat Out to Help Out' voucher scheme. There are over 100 restaurants in Cheltenham participating, and I've listed them below. If you're in a position to back our local hospitality sector, I hope there's something up your street.

Thank you for reading.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alex Chalk."

**Alex Chalk MP**

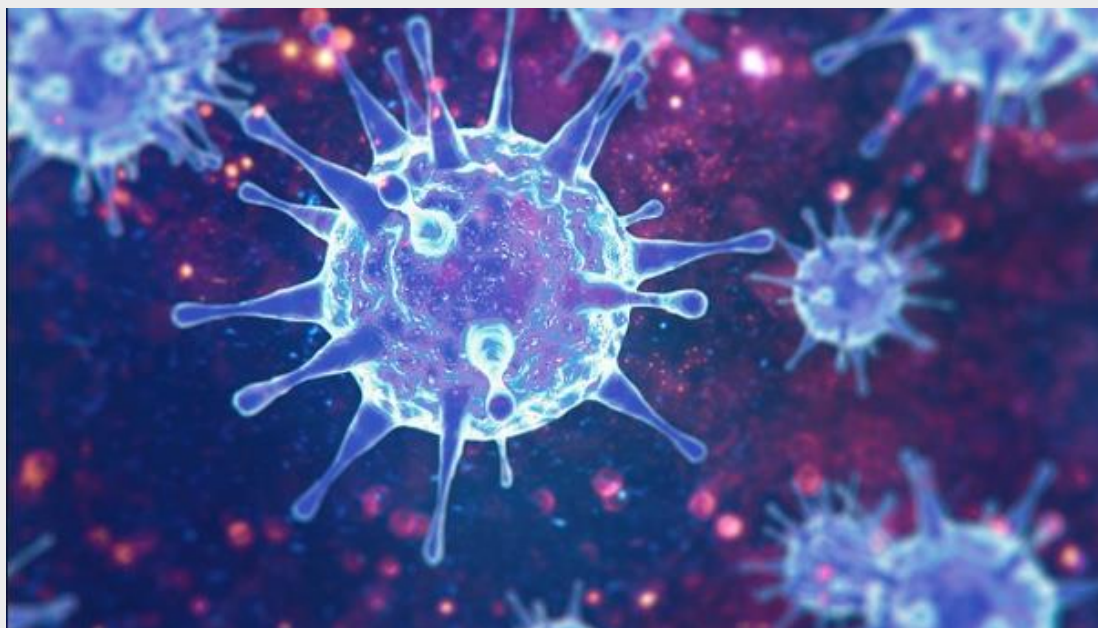
*In line with data protection regulations, Alex Chalk's office processes constituents' data for policy and casework purposes under the lawful basis of public task. In instances where this lawful basis is not sufficient and explicit consent is required, a member of staff will get in touch with you to establish consent. You can find the full privacy notice on Alex's website [HERE](#)*



Alex on the front bench in the last fortnight at Justice Questions. Note: the handbag was not his!

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## CHELTENHAM COVID UPDATE



As at 23 July there were fewer than **five** COVID-19 positive inpatients in Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Trust.

The rate of deaths in care homes is now at a level that would normally be expected for this time of year. Death certifications overall in the county are down 5% on the previous two year average.

On PPE, at the current burn rate there is between **eleven and 33 weeks' supply of protective equipment held in reserve** (depending on the particular item) and supply lines are functioning well.

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## ALEX'S MINISTERIAL ROUND-UP



**That will be welcomed in Cheltenham,  
and indeed Gloucester.**

#### **ALEX PROMISES FUNDING FOR ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

Responding to a question from Gloucester MP Richard Graham, Alex confirmed that he had **authorised a multi-million pound package of emergency Government funding to the Law Centres** Network, which is good news for **Gloucester Law Centre**. Alex also confirmed a massive boost in the maintenance budget for court buildings, benefiting **Cheltenham Magistrates' Court**.

Click on the image above to watch the exchange.



### **GUIDING THE DOMESTIC ABUSE BILL THROUGH HOUSE OF COMMONS**

Alex has been one of two ministers responsible for guiding the **Domestic Abuse Bill** through Parliament. The Bill introduces powerful new Domestic Abuse Protection Orders to protect victims, as well as automatic entitlement to 'special measures' to help victims give evidence in court. It brings into force a prohibition on cross-examination by perpetrators, and much more.

The Bill has now passed in the House of Commons, and now goes to the House of Lords to be debated.

Alex has long been a campaigner on the linked issue of stalking, and as a backbencher introduced a private member's bill which **doubled the maximum sentence for the offence of [stalking](#)**. Speaking after the Third Reading, Alex said:

*"I'm delighted that the Domestic Abuse Bill has passed in the Commons. It now goes to the House of Lords, and (with a fair wind) onto the statute book. It has been a long haul getting to this point - many a long day spent in committee as Bill minister on line-by-line scrutiny - and it's great to get it over the line. I'm grateful to colleagues across Parliament who have contributed to making this a better piece of legislation.*

*There's always more to do, but at a time like this **let's pause to remember those like Gloucestershire's Hollie Gazzard**. Legislation like this responds to the horror that she and others suffered. We should mark their powerful legacy through these measures in protecting future victims. But we remember them principally as sparkling, loving people,*

*who must never be defined by those who inflicted such unspeakable cruelty."*



### **ALLOWING WILLS TO BE WITNESSED VIA VIDEOLINK**

Alex is responsible for wills in his Ministry of Justice portfolio.

He has taken steps to ensure that **wills witnessed remotely via video link will become legal in England and Wales to make it easier for people to record their final wishes during the pandemic**. The change to the law will be backdated to 31 January, the date of the first confirmed coronavirus case in the UK.

It means any will witnessed remotely from that date onwards will be legally accepted. This measure will remain in place until January 2022.

Under the current law, a will must be made in the physical presence of at least two witnesses but social distancing measures have made this difficult.

For more details, read [HERE](#).



### **IMPROVING ACCESS TO COMPENSATION FOR VICTIMS OF TERRORISM**

Alex has drawn up new proposals to improve the support available to victims of terror atrocities at home and overseas. Under the new plans, people injured by violent crime will benefit from a **new dedicated compensation scheme**. The plans form part of a package of reforms which seek to make the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme (CICS) simpler and more transparent.

Alex said:

*“All too recently we’ve witnessed the devastating effects of terrorism, which is why this government is determined that victims get the support they need to rebuild their lives.*

*“While no amount of compensation can ever make up for the suffering they’ve endured, our reforms will ensure the system for claiming awards better reflects the needs of victims, and that applications are processed as rapidly as possible.*

*“But this is only one part of our plans to boost the support available for people injured by violent crime. We are simplifying the scheme making it easier to understand, as well as increasing pay-outs for bereaved families.”*

[Read more here.](#)

This also builds on Alex’s previous work as a backbencher to **toughen terror sentencing**. In 2017 he led a successful campaign in Parliament to increase the maximum prison sentence for repeated viewing of terror-related material online, from 10 to 15 years. [Read more here.](#)





### **STREAMLINING LASTING POWER OF ATTORNEY PROCESS**

Alex has been working with the Office of Public Guardian to launch a **new digital Lasting Power of Attorney tool** to help those acting as an attorney to contact organisations like banks more easily.

The tool will improve the speed with which LPAs can make important decisions, such as those related to their loved ones' care or property, dramatically speeding up the current paper-based process which can take weeks. The new online service will make the process more accessible and user friendly.

Alex said:

*"This new innovative system will make a real and positive difference to people dealing with what can be an emotional and difficult process. It is just the latest example of the way we are using technology throughout the justice system to create better, more effective services for the public."*

[Read more here.](#)

### **ALSO THIS FORTNIGHT:**

#### **Responded to 22 Written Parliamentary Questions:**

Alex answered questions from MPs on a range of issues, from **extending notices of marriage** due to the impact of COVID-19 on weddings, to providing information on the number of **Female Genital Mutilation Protection Orders** in place in the UK.

#### **As part of other duties:**

- Met with **Rt Hon David Lammy MP** to discuss progress on race disparity in the criminal justice system;

- Signed into law the [Family Procedure \(Amendment No.2\) Rules 2020](#), which streamlines the process for contempt of civil and family courts;
- Signed the Explanatory Memorandum for the EU strategy on victims' rights;
- Working with the legal professions to ensure the smooth restart of jury trials following the pandemic;
- Attended by Zoom the **Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year** awards
- Supported the 51st anniversary celebrations of the [North Kensington Law Centre](#).

**Held Meetings/Talks with:**

- Chair of the **Bar Council** Amanda Pinto QC;
- Housing, Community and Local Government ministers;
- **Victims Commissioner**;
- Representatives of the **Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority**;
- Representatives of the **Young Legal Aid Lawyers**;
- MPs including Jonathan Djangoly, Andrew Selous, Damian Green, Laura Farris, Shaun Bailey, Richard Fuller, Sarah Dines, Antony Higginbotham, Sarah Champion regarding the Private International Law Bill, which Alex will be taking through the House of Commons in September

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**TO SUPPORT CHELTENHAM'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY, IN THE LAST FORTNIGHT  
ALEX HAS:**



[Pictured is the Old Restoration, Cheltenham's oldest pub]

### **HELPED LOCAL PUB STAY IN BUSINESS**

A local pub leaseholder has **paid tribute to Alex's efforts to help his pub secure a Government grant** to keep his business afloat during the pandemic. After the Old Restoration was initially ineligible on account of its rateable value being over the threshold, Alex wrote to the Valuation Office on the pub's behalf to take up the case.

Writing for GlosLive, the landlord said:

*"I got in touch with Alex Chalk who was absolutely phenomenal. He wrote to the valuation office on my behalf and was massively supportive. There was a lot of lobbying on my behalf so we got a grant a week ago, which was amazing because I was able to use it to pay off a loan I had to take from the bank to keep us afloat."*

**[Read more here.](#)**



[Alex visited his barber again for a long-awaited haircut]

### **BACKED LOCAL BUSINESSES THAT HAVE REOPENED**

Following the phased relaxation of restrictions in recent weeks, Alex is out and about, supporting Cheltenham businesses as they begin to reopen.

Alex visited his local barbershop for the first time in three months. Pictured above is Alex at **Toni's Barbers** on Henrietta Street, near his office. Sadly, Toni himself died of COVID-19, and Alex has called for a suitable act of remembrance in Cheltenham in due course to mark the many local people who have fallen victim to the virus.

Pictured below is Alex visiting **Eden Health and Beauty Spa**, to see how they were effectively reopening to provide clients with a range of treatments, again in a COVID-secure way.



# EAT OUT TO HELP OUT

**50% REDUCTION ON MEALS AND NON-ALCOHOLIC DRINKS  
AT ELIGIBLE PUBS, CAFES AND RESTAURANTS**



## **WELCOMED EXTRA FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY INDUSTRIES**

Alex has welcomed the Chancellor's mini-budget for post-COVID economic recovery, which pledged millions of pounds in support for businesses in the hospitality and leisure industries in Cheltenham and across the UK. Measures include:

**"Eat out to help out" scheme:**

- This scheme provides 50% off meals and non-alcoholic drinks at any eligible pub, cafe and restaurant, on any Monday-Wednesday throughout the month of August, up to a value of £10 per person.
- To see which restaurants in Cheltenham are participating, use the [gov.uk restaurant finder tool here](#).
- Alternatively, here's a list of 100 participating restaurants:

**1. The London Inn**

0.22 miles away

195 London Road, Charlton Kings, Gloucestershire, GL52 6HU

**2. PASTA ETC!**

0.27 miles away

264 London Road, Charlton Kings, Gloucestershire, GL52 6HS

**3. THE MEADOW CAFE**

0.30 miles away

Old Bath Road, Gloucestershire, GL53 7FF

**4. East Gloucestershire Club Ltd**

0.42 miles away

Old Bath Road, Gloucestershire, GL53 7DF

**5. The Royal**

0.58 miles away

The Royal, 54 Horsefair Street, Gloucestershire, GL53 8JH

**6. Moosh**

0.64 miles away

3a, Church Piece, Gloucestershire, GL53 8JN

**7. Sandford Park Ale House**

0.67 miles away

20 High Street, Gloucestershire, GL50 1DZ

**8. Number 85 Coffee and Kitchen**

0.73 miles away

85 Hewlett Road, Gloucestershire, GL52 6AJ

**9. The Swan**

0.73 miles away

35-37, High Street, Gloucestershire, GL50 1DX

**10. The Strand**

0.73 miles away

40-42, High Street, Gloucestershire, GL50 1EE

**11. The Vine**

0.75 miles away

47 High Street, Gloucestershire, GL50 1DX

**12. Cafe Moochoo**

0.76 miles away

51 High Street, Gloucestershire, GL50 1DX

**13. OLD RESTORATION**

0.77 miles away

55-57, High Street, Gloucestershire, GL50 1DX

**14. EKTA FOOD LIMITED**

0.78 miles away

44-48, St. James Street, Gloucestershire, GL52 2SH

**15. The Nest**

0.78 miles away

The Nest Cafe - Eagle Tower, Montpellier Drive, gl50 1ta

**16. PRMM ltd**

0.79 miles away

Montpellier drive, GL50 1TY

**17. Z&K Fast Food Ltd/TA German Doner kebab**

0.79 miles away

65-67, High Street, Gloucestershire, GL50 1DU

**18. Balti walla**

0.80 miles away

143 Bath Road, Gloucestershire, GL53 7LT

**19. My Coffee**

0.81 miles away

186 Bath Road, Gloucestershire, GL53 7NE

**20. The New Club**

0.81 miles away

2 Montpellier Parade, Gloucestershire, GL50 1UD

**21. Mister's Cafe**

0.82 miles away

Mister's Cafe, 15 Grosvenor Terrace, Gloucestershire, GL52 2SA

**22. The Exmouth Arms**

0.82 miles away

167 Bath Road, Gloucestershire, GL53 7LX

**23. Curious cafe & Bistro**

0.83 miles away

204 Bath Road, Gloucestershire, GL53 7NE

**24. Citrus Hotel Cheltenham**

0.83 miles away

5 Wellington Street, Gloucestershire, GL50 1XZ

**25. The Beehive**

0.84 miles away

1-3, Montpellier Villas, Gloucestershire, GL50 2XE

**26. Farmhouse Cooked Meats Limited**

0.85 miles away

92, High Street, Gloucestershire, GL50 1EG

**27. Lucy's Cafe Limited**

0.85 miles away

183 Bath Road, Gloucestershire, GL53 7LY

**28. The Five Alls**

0.85 miles away

The Five Alls, 232 Bath Road, Gloucestershire, GL53 7ND

**29. Petit Coco**

0.85 miles away

2 Bath Street, Gloucestershire, GL50 1YE

**30. The Hewlett Arms**



0.85 miles away

The Hewlett Arms, Harp Hill, Gloucestershire, GL52 6QG

**31. The Brown Jug**

0.87 miles away

The Brown Jug, 242 Bath Road, Gloucestershire, GL53 7NB

**32. The Retreat**

0.87 miles away

10 Suffolk Parade, Gloucestershire, GL50 2AB

**33. OX Cheltenham**

0.88 miles away

Basement, 10 Cambray Place, Gloucestershire, GL50 1JS

**34. SOHO Coffee Shops Limited Cambray**

0.88 miles away

2 Cambray Place, Gloucestershire, GL50 1JS

**35. Huffkins at John Lewis Cheltenham**

0.90 miles away

123 High Street, Gloucestershire, GL50 1DQ

**36. Town Hall and Garden Bar**

0.93 miles away

Town Hall, Imperial Square, Gloucestershire, GL50 1QA

**37. The Bridge Cafe**

0.94 miles away

Unit Fk28, Regent Arcade, Regent Street, Gloucestershire, GL50 1JZ

**38. SOHO Coffee Shops Limited Regents**

0.94 miles away

Lower Mall Unit K4, Regent Arcade Shopping Centre, Gloucestershire, GL50 1JZ

**39. Revival cafe bar and grill**

0.95 miles away

5, Winchcombe street, Gloucestershire, GL52 2LZ

**40. AquaVitae**

0.95 miles away

10 Ormond Place, Gloucestershire, GL50 1JD

**41. Domaine 16**

0.95 miles away

16 Regent Street, Gloucestershire, GL50 1HE

**42. SPENCERS CAFE**

0.96 miles away

10 Winchcombe Street, Gloucestershire, GL52 2LZ

**43. THE FIND CAFE LIMITED**

0.96 miles away

20 Regent Street, Gloucestershire, GL50 1HE

**44. Gloucestershire Everyman Theatre Catering Company Ltd**

0.96 miles away

7-10, Regent Street, Gloucestershire, GL50 1HQ

**45. Woodkraft Restaurants Limited**

0.96 miles away

13 Regent Street, Gloucestershire, GL50 1HE

**46. Woodkraft**

0.96 miles away

13 Regent Street, Gloucestershire, GL50 1HE

**47. Dolce & Salato**

0.96 miles away

18 Winchcombe Street, Gloucestershire, GL52 2LX

**48. Bar Padron Ltd**

0.96 miles away

6 Regent Street, Gloucestershire, GL50 1HE

**49. Fat Toni's Pizzeria**

0.97 miles away

4 Regent Street, Gloucestershire, GL50 1HE

**50. the regency tea rooms**

0.97 miles away

3 Ormond Terrace Regent Street, Gloucestershire, GL50 1HR

**51. Vegetus**

0.98 miles away

42 Winchcombe Street, Gloucestershire, GL52 2ND

**52. The Istanbul Kitchen**

0.99 miles away

48 Winchcombe Street, Gloucestershire, GL52 2ND

**53. MGALLERY QUEENS HOTEL CHELTENHAM**

0.99 miles away

Promenade, Gloucestershire, GL50 1NN

**54. Brasserie Blanc Cheltenham**

0.99 miles away

Promenade, Gloucestershire, GL50 1NN

**55. EDEN POLISH KITCHEN CHELTENHAM LTD**

1.02 miles away

14 Albion Street, Gloucestershire, GL52 2LP

**56. 131 The Promenade**

1.02 miles away

131 Promenade, Gloucestershire, GL50 1NW

**57. KFC**

1.02 miles away

KFC, 6-8 Pittville Street, GL52 2LJ

**58. Circus Bar**

1.03 miles away

5 Queens Circus, GL50 1RX

**59. Clementine Cheltenham Ltd**

1.03 miles away

4 Queens Circus, Gloucestershire, GL50 1RX

**60. Huffkins Cheltenham Promenade**

1.03 miles away

Basement and Ground Floor, 23-25 Promenade, Gloucestershire, GL50 1LE

**61. Chelsea Brasserie**

1.03 miles away

9 Montpellier Terrace, Gloucestershire, GL50 1US

**62. Starbucks**

1.03 miles away

1 Promenade, Gloucestershire, GL50 1LN

**63. Kashmir Gloucestershire Limited**

1.04 miles away

1 Albion Street, Gloucestershire, GL52 2LH

**64. Chaplais Kitchen**

1.04 miles away

Rotunda Terrace, 15 Montpellier Street, Glos, GL50 1SD

**65. Nosh cafe**

1.04 miles away

1 Royal Well Road, Gloucestershire, GL50 3PB

**66. Doubletree By Hilton Cheltenham**

1.07 miles away

Cirencester Road, Charlton Kings, Gloucestershire, GL53 8EA

**67. INDIAN VOOJAN**

1.07 miles away

5 Rotunda Terrace Montpellier Stree, Gloucestershire, GL50 1SW

**68. L'ARTISAN**

1.07 miles away

30 Clarence Street, Gloucestershire, GL50 3NX

**69. C P I (UK) LTD T/A SOHO BAR**

1.07 miles away

2 Rotunda Terrace Montpellier Stree, Gloucestershire, GL50 1SW

**70. The Mayflower Cheltenham Ltd**

1.07 miles away

32-34, Clarence Street, Gloucestershire, GL50 3NX

**71. Ballroom**

1.07 miles away

Bayshill Lodge, Montpellier Street, Gloucestershire, GL50 1SY

**72. SOHO Coffee Shops Limited The Brewery**

1.07 miles away

Unit B, The Brewery Quarter, Gloucestershire, GL50 3HH

**73. The Terrace**

1.08 miles away

2 Crescent Terrace, Gloucestershire, GL50 3PE

**74. The Tavern**

1.09 miles away

The Tavern, 5 Royal Well Place, GL50 3DN

**75. No 3 Restaurants**

1.09 miles away

12 Royal Crescent, Gloucestershire, GL50 3DA

**76. The Boston Tea Party Group Limited**

1.10 miles away

45-47, Clarence Street, Gloucestershire, GL50 3JS

**77. Daphne Restaurant**

1.11 miles away

2 Crescent Place, Gloucestershire, GL50 3PG

**78. Cafe Sarnie**

1.11 miles away

3 Bennington Street, Gloucestershire, GL50 4ED

**79. Hotel du Vin & Bistro Cheltenham**

1.11 miles away

Parabola Road, Gloucestershire, GL50 3AH

**80. McDonald's Cheltenham**

1.12 miles away

Mcdonald's Cheltenham , 224/226 High Street, , GL50 3HF

**81. Havanas Coffee**

1.12 miles away

14 Prestbury Road, Gloucestershire, GL52 2PW

**82. Muse Brasserie**

1.13 miles away

Formal House, 60 St. Georges Place, Gloucestershire, GL50 3PN

**83. Thai Emerald**

1.13 miles away

60 St Georges Place, Gloucestershire, GL50 3PN

**84. Malmaison Cheltenham**

1.13 miles away

Malmaison Cheltenham, Bayshill Road, Gloucestershire, GL50 3AS

**85. Creams Cafe**

1.16 miles away

Unit D, The Brewery Quarter, High Street, Gloucestershire, GL50 3FF

**86. The Fire Station**

1.16 miles away

Former Fire Station, St James Square, Gloucestershire, GL50 3PU

**87. Brewhouse and Kitchen Cheltenham**

1.18 miles away

The Brewery Quarter, Henrietta Street, Gloucestershire, GL50 4FA

**88. Maison Chaplais**

1.18 miles away

52 Andover Road, Gloucestershire, GL50 2TL

**89. 288 Bar & Wok**

1.20 miles away

288 High Street, Gloucestershire, GL50 3HQ

**90. Mr Mulligans Cheltenham**

1.21 miles away

Unit 5a, The Brewery Quarter, Henrietta Street, Gloucestershire, GL50 4FA

**91. The Bottle of Sauce**

1.22 miles away

7 Ambrose Street, Gloucestershire, GL50 3LH

**92. HOt and Sweet LTD T/a Kaspas Desserts**

1.22 miles away

Basement and Ground Floor, 297 High Street, Gloucestershire, GL50 3HL

**93. Tivoli Tap (at the Royal Union)**

1.24 miles away

37 Hatherley Street, Gloucestershire, GL50 2TT

**94. GlenFall house ltd**

1.26 miles away

Glenfall House, Mill Lane, Gloucestershire, GL54 4EP

**95. Bombay and Co**

1.31 miles away

337 High Street, Gloucestershire, GL50 3HS

**96. The Railway**

1.33 miles away

New Street, Gloucestershire, GL50 3QL

**97. The Coconut Tree**

1.43 miles away

59 St. Pauls Road, Gloucestershire, GL50 4JA

**98. Pittville Pump Room**

1.60 miles away

Pittville Pump Room, East Approach Drive, Gloucestershire, GL52 3JE

**99. curry express**

1.63 miles away

95 Gloucester Road, Gloucestershire, GL51 8NG

**100. Madisons**

1.73 miles away

Madisons, 81 Queens Rd, Gloucestershire, GL50 2NH

**VAT cut to 5% for the tourism and hospitality industries:**

- **VAT has been cut from 20% to 5% until at least 12 January 2021.** The cut will apply to food and non-alcoholic drinks from restaurants, pubs, bars, cafés and other similar premises across the UK. It will also apply to accommodation and

on admission to attractions. **It is expected to save the average Cheltenham household around £160.**

For businesses in Cheltenham, these measures are on top of the **£25 million** grant schemes, plus a **£1.2 million** Discretionary Grant Scheme, 12-month business rates holidays at a cost of **£30 million**, and millions of pounds to fund the Job Retention Scheme - benefitting **15,400** Cheltenham workers.

**That's estimated to be over £100 million in Government funding to shield Cheltenham's economy** from the impact of COVID-19 and protect jobs.

**Richard Graham**  
MP for Gloucester

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE  
JOBS, SKILLS &  
APPRENTICESHIPS  
LIFT OFF 2020**

**11 September 2020**  
Kingsholm Stadium, Kingsholm Road, Gloucester GL1 3AX

In partnership with:

UNIVERSITY OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE | gfirst LEP | EDF ENERGY | jobcentre plus | Gloucestershire COUNTY COUNCIL | GC gloucestershire college | glos jobs | spirax sarco

Supported by: Siobhan Baillie MP, Alex Chalk MP, Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP, Rt Hon Mark Harper MP, Laurence Robertson MP

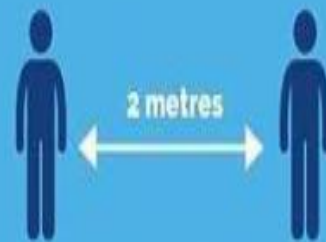
**SAVE THE DATE!** Richard Graham MP (Gloucester), supported by the county's MPs and also the Employment minister, is organising a Jobs, Skills and Apprenticeships 'Lift Off 2020' at Kingsholm on 11 September 2020.

As we rebuild in the light of COVID-19 we need a relentless focus on jobs. This event, which is being kindly hosted by **Gloucester Rugby** on a not-for-profit basis will be attended by the Apprenticeship minister, Gillian Keegan MP, as well as the county's MPs. The event has the backing and lead sponsorship of **Cheltenham's Spirax Sarco**, as well as **UGlos, GlosCol and GFirst LEP**.



We are opening...  
**20TH JULY!**

Exclusively for Season Ticket Holders 20th-26th July,  
open to public from 27th July



Restricted capacity and session  
times. See online for details

**WELCOMED REOPENING OF SANDFORD PARK LIDO AFTER LOBBYING MINISTERS ON IT**

Alex was delighted that outdoor pools have been given the go ahead to reopen, having previously met with the Culture Secretary to make the case for reopening Sandford Park Lido. As a season ticket-holder last year, Alex echoed the case made by many constituents about how important it is to get this local asset reopened as soon as possible. Following changes to Government restrictions, the public has been able to visit since 27 July.

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**ALSO IN CHELTENHAM, ALEX HAS:**



[Pictured: the school bus after the crash]

### **URGED THE FOREIGN SECRETARY TO HELP RESOLVE BOURNSIDE BUS CRASH INQUIRY**

Alex has renewed his appeal to Foreign & Commonwealth Office ministers to press their French counterparts to conclude the inquiry into the **Bournside School** bus crash, which injured fifteen students and teachers in France in 2016, two of them seriously. The investigation has still not yet been concluded, leaving several of Alex's constituents without clarity as to what caused the accident.

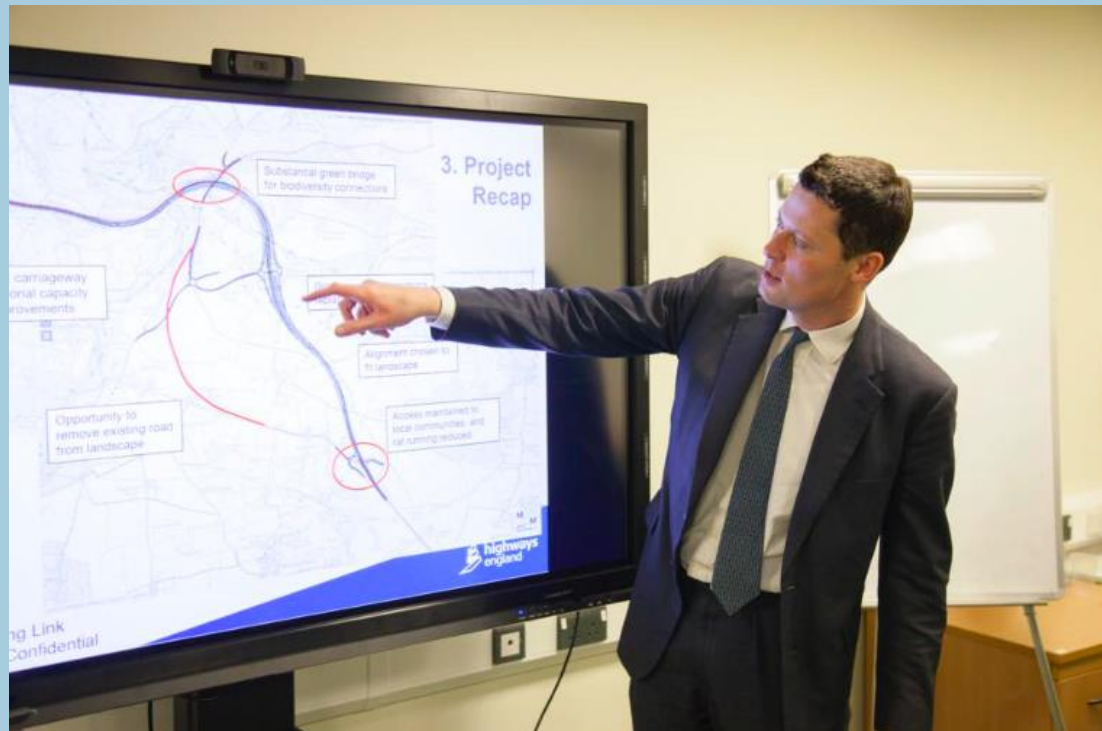
Alex previously met with Foreign Office officials to raise this in July last year, three years on from the crash (read more [here](#)). After little progress, Alex has again urged colleagues to push for a conclusion as soon as possible.

Read more about the incident [here](#).



### **THANKED LOCAL POLICE OFFICERS**

After concerns were raised by his constituents about the state of littering and ongoing anti-social behaviour in parks in town, Alex met up with local officers to thank them for their high-visibility patrols in the town centre.



### **HELD TALKS WITH HIGHWAYS ENGLAND OVER REVISED PLANS FOR A417 'MISSING LINK'**

Having lobbied for the **A417 'Missing Link' project** since 2014, Alex was disappointed that the development of the project has been delayed by twelve months following last minute objections to the 'green bridge' element of the scheme. However, having discussed the revised plans with Highways England, Alex acknowledges that the new plans will **mitigate the environmental impact** of developing the site.

Alex said:

*"This 12 month delay due to a late objection is frustrating, because it means another year of accidents, congestion and air pollution. It also means **£400m investment** into the Glos economy will have to wait.*

*"Having talked it through with Highways England this week, there is a silver lining of sorts though: the hiatus will be used to work up a design change to the gradient (7% to 8%). This sounds modest but in practice it means far less earth has to be shifted, and a **reduced environmental impact** as a result."*

[Read more here.](#)



### **WELCOMED £20M INVESTMENT BOOST FOR GLOUCESTERSHIRE HIGHWAYS PROJECTS**

Gloucestershire County Council's cabinet has announced it is increasing its investment in the county's infrastructure by £20.296 million. The budget rise will be funded by contributions including:

- £11.2million Pothole and Challenge Fund grant from the Department for Transport for structural maintenance of carriageways and footways, concrete road renewal, bridges and structural capital projects and landslips;
- £6.59million local enterprise partnership Growth Deal Fund grant towards the West of Cheltenham Transport Improvement Scheme;
- £456,000 developer contribution towards Telstar Way/Hubble Road in Cheltenham.

There is also an additional £280,000 developer contribution towards the planned **£3 million Cheltenham to Bishops Cleeve cycle track**.

[Read more here.](#)



### **ENJOYED A FAMILY STAYCATION IN CHELTENHAM**

Following the rise of the House of Commons for the summer recess, Alex is 'staycationing' with the family in Cheltenham. Alex took his daughters out blackberry picking along the Honeybourne Line (below).



#### **ALSO THIS FORTNIGHT, ALEX HAS:**

##### **Written to Stagecoach to recognise their work to improve services for visually impaired constituents:**

After meeting with **Gloucestershire Sight Loss Council**, Alex was delighted to hear that Stagecoach have been working with them to try to improve their services for visually impaired people. In particular, the rollout of audio announcements on the buses has delivered increased independence and confidence. Alex wrote to the Managing Director to acknowledge the progress that has been made.

##### **Visited Pate's Grammar School:**

Alex visited the school to hear from students about how the COVID disruption has affected their studies.

##### **Held a constituency surgeries via Zoom**

Alex 'met' with a number of constituents at one of his regular surgeries, which have continued throughout the pandemic.

##### **Held Meetings/Talks with:**

- **GFirst LEP**, to discuss impact of COVID-19 on Gloucestershire's economy;
- **Highways England**, to discuss revised plans for the A417 Missing Link project;
- Local pub owners, to discuss plans for their financial recovery;
- A local **property development business**, to hear concerns about empty properties as a result of COVID-19;
- Local limited company owner-directors, to discuss what more can be done for those who have been unable to claim Government support during the pandemic;
- **Gloucestershire Sight Loss Council**;
- Residents of St Luke's Road who were recently flooded, to push for urgent remedial action.

#### **IN THE MEDIA:**

As well as being interviewed by BBC Radio Gloucestershire and BBC Points West, Alex has written three articles for the Gloucestershire Echo, in which he:

1. Hailed the Chancellor's plan for a **green economic recovery**, including more green jobs and greener homes in Cheltenham. [Read here.](#)
2. Welcomed **extra financial support for Cheltenham's businesses** in the leisure and hospitality industries, and encouraged everyone to support them to fire up Cheltenham's economy. [Read here.](#)
3. Welcomed a **pay rise for public sector workers** in Cheltenham and across the UK. [Read here.](#)

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#### **OTHER LOCAL NEWS**





### **SCHOOLS PREPARE TO FULLY REOPEN IN SEPTEMBER**

The Government has issued new guidance to schools on how they should continue to help to reduce the risk of transmission when pupils go back to school in September. This includes keeping children in set 'bubbles' of classes, year groups or phases, regular cleaning and handwashing; as well as reducing the flow of children around the school and not holding 'all school' assemblies.

You can read more about the Government's strategy for schools [here](#).

### **EXTRA £30K FUND TO FEED FAMILIES OVER SUMMER HOLIDAYS**

Gloucestershire County Council has invested £30,000 as part of its Holiday Hunger Programme to make sure that no young person goes without food this summer.

The funding will complement the Government's supermarket voucher scheme for children receiving free school meals, which was introduced during the pandemic, and has since been extended to support families over the summer holidays.

[Read more here.](#)

### **COUNTY COUNCIL PLEDGES £3.7M TO SUPPORT ADULTS WITH SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESSES**

Gloucestershire County Council have committed an extra **£2.7 million to continue supported housing for adults with serious mental illness**, and £1m for a specialist team to work with them to design brand new placements.

The Council has been working on plans to modernise accommodation for adults in supported housing, but this was delayed due to COVID-19. As a result of the delay, the

Council will extend the current housing arrangements with 13 housing providers for up to three years to maintain stability for those being supported. During that time, specialist NHS teams will work with those needing support to design their new placements in line with their individual needs.

[Read more here.](#)



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