



2020-0070014POSoS

Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP
Secretary of State

Sanctuary Buildings Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus

Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP
By email: george.howarth.mp@parliament.uk

28 January 2021

Thank you for your email of 14 December, enclosing an example of correspondence received from a number of your constituents, regarding the resumption of domestic residential educational visits.

There is no doubt that the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak continues to present significant challenges for the country, for our schools, colleges and universities, and for British businesses, including those businesses associated with the provision of domestic and overseas residential educational visits. As you will be aware the Prime Minister announced a further National Lockdown on 4 January, this includes restricting access to schools and colleges to all but vulnerable children and children of critical workers.

Prior to this lockdown schools were able to undertake coronavirus (COVID-19) secure day visits within the UK but were advised against undertaking any domestic or overseas residential educational visits. Unfortunately, due to the present climate and the national restrictions placed on the country we are now advising against all domestic/international day and residential educational visits. I will review this advice before the end of February.

During this very difficult time the government has made available to UK businesses a number of support measures and more information on business support can be found at: tinyurl.com/Ybfdsrn9.

Officials are continuing to work across government, with industry bodies and sector representatives to address the issues arising from the pandemic and to help them plan for the safe reintroduction of residential educational visits, when it is safe to do so.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to highlight some of the challenges facing the school travel sector and assure you that we take these matters very seriously.