



**LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL
LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS
THE RT. HON. JACOB REES-MOGG M.P.**



Ms Catherine McKinnell M.P.,
Chair, Petitions Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Our Ref: JRM/SC351
15 July 2020

Dear Catherine,

Thank you for your recent letter requesting an update on plans to reopen Westminster Hall.

I agree that the virtual evidence sessions are not a long term solution for debating petitions that carry the support of many thousands of our constituents. I was pleased to be able to provide time in the Chamber and will keep this option under consideration when the House returns after the summer recess.

I am working with the House authorities to explore the possibility of reopening Westminster Hall. Whilst I am unable to provide a timescale for that at this stage, I am very conscious of the need to get back to business as usual. I am sure that you will understand that a balance needs to be struck between returning to as full a working Parliament as possible whilst ensuring that any changes do not place an unnecessary burden on staff supporting the House. It is for this reason that any decision to reopen Westminster Hall will be taken in consultation with the House.

With every good wish,

*Yours,
Jacob*