



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Nicky Morgan MP
Secretary of State for Education
Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3BT

15 July 2014

Dear Nicky,

Deregulation Bill Clause 44


I spoke during the Third Reading of the Bill last month regarding Clause 44 and had previously raised the matter with Michael Gove through Ben Gummer.

I fully understand the rationale behind this provision, both from an educational point of view and from the perspective of giving schools greater autonomy. However, there is a concern that this measure could have a significant adverse impact on the tourism industry, in particular on family seaside attractions. It should be borne in mind that these businesses are important local employers, often clustered in coastal locations, where invariably the local economy faces greater challenges.

I am concerned that Clause 44 as it stands could have a major impact on people and businesses in the tourism sector in my Waveney constituency for two reasons:-

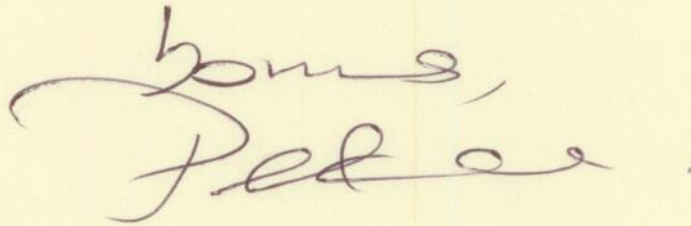
1. The proposal shifts the burden of setting term times on to individual schools resulting in holidays of differing length and at different times leading to confusion for parents with children at different schools.
2. Uncoordinated changes to school holidays could have a significant economic impact on businesses in the tourism industry. These concerns have been raised by a variety of local businesses including Africa Alive and Pleasurewood Hills. They very much rely on a good summer season for their success. Cutting this by one third from six to four weeks could affect their profitability.

It is possible that my concerns may be unfounded, but if they are not this measure could have a significant adverse impact on the local economy which could be repeated around the coast. I therefore believe that it is appropriate that before the Bill passes through the House of Lords a full impact assessment is carried out to establish whether there is likely to be a problem.



I would be grateful if you could give this request full consideration. I shall be consulting more fully on the proposal during the Recess and as and when I receive relevant feedback I shall forward it to you.

With many thanks and with many congratulations and best of luck in your new role.



Peter Aldous
Member of Parliament for Waveney