

Frequently asked questions

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What is the hotel being used for?

This has been set-up by Department for Transport (DfT) and the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). The hotel will act as an isolation point for haulage drivers going to and from Europe who have tested positive for COVID-19. Bar Hill is just one such hotel being used for this purpose across the country. It will mainly be used for non-UK based drivers who cannot isolate at home.

How will the facility operate/run and who is managing it?

MHCLG and DfT have spoken directly to the hotel. The hotel is managing the day to day running of the arrangements, with support from Government and local Councils. South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) and Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) are working together with the hotel to make sure appropriate protocols and measures are in place. SCDC have carried out various risk assessments from an environmental health point of view to help ensure the hotel and grounds are Covid-secure.

How many lorries will be in the hotel and where will they park?

Both SCDC and CCC are working with the DfT and hotel to ensure lorry cabs and any trailers are not parked in the village itself. This will not be allowed. In most cases only the lorry cab will come to the hotel with the driver, as trailers will be collected by the company the lorry driver works for. There might be a small number of trailers if there is no other option. Car park capacity is constantly monitored with the hotel. If required, provision has been made for the lorries / cabs to be parked securely somewhere else, off site. This would be in an agreed, secure location not in the village of Bar Hill.

How many lorry drivers will be in the hotel at one time?

The main factor that will determine that is the car park capacity. All cabs and any trailers must be parked safely and cannot be parked anywhere else in Bar Hill. Councils will be working closely with DfT and the hotel to monitor and manage this. As a trailer takes up a lot more room than a cab it will be a big factor on the capacity. In some cases, a cab has two drivers who both need to isolate.

How will you make sure they stay in the hotel and self-isolate?

The district council have carried out various risk assessments and County Council have looked at the public health implications to make sure strict procedures are in place. It is the responsibility of every individual who tests positive to self-isolate and is a legal requirement. Requirements of the drivers are set out when they arrive. Translated information and interpreters will be used where necessary too. Steps are being taken to help ensure the lorry drivers are able to stay in their rooms as comfortably as possible. This includes food, drink, toiletries, television, Wi-Fi and any other essentials. They are able to communicate with hotel staff throughout the day and night should they need to request anything extra. Provisions are being made to allow the lorry drivers to have fresh air, as permitted by the self-isolation rules, within the hotel grounds. This will be closely monitored.

How will this affect residents?

Systems are in place so that the lorry drivers do not need to leave the hotel grounds. The councils will be in touch with them each day and hotel staff are available to the drivers with anything extra they may need. These processes ensure there is no need to leave the hotel site and there isn't an impact on the rest of the village.

How will you make sure they don't park in nearby streets if it's too difficult getting into the car park?

Both SCDC and CCC are working with the DfT and hotel to ensure lorry cabs and any trailers are not parked in the village itself. This will not be allowed. In most cases only the lorry cab will come to the hotel with the driver, as trailers will be collected by the company the lorry driver works for. There might be a small number of trailers if there is no other option. Car park capacity is constantly monitored with the hotel. If required, provision has been made for the lorries / cabs to be parked securely somewhere else, off site. This would be in an agreed, secure location not in the village of Bar Hill.

What about the building work that's going on with the flats and houses?

This has been assessed as part of the assessments. This work will continue, and measures are in place to ensure builders and people self-isolating are kept apart.

What about the golf course?

The golf course is currently closed due to the national lockdown. We do not yet know when this will change. Work will be carried out to ensure the golf course can operate without any additional risks.

If they are all positive, what about the hotel staff and residents that live nearby?

Partners across the district and county councils, as well as emergency planning teams and public health, have been working to assist DfT and the hotel. This will act as an isolation point and all the appropriate public health and safety protocols are in place and strict COVID-19 rules are being followed. Bar Hill is just one such area across the country. Support is in place so that lorry drivers do not need to leave the hotel grounds.

Who decided this location?

The DfT chose the location.

How long will it be used for?

We do not yet know as the Coronavirus situation is monitored by Government on a day-to-day basis.

Are the staff staying at the hotel at risk?

All necessary PPE and risk assessments to ensure processes are carried out safely will be used. This includes strict social distancing. Hotel staff will be offered regular Coronavirus tests as part of this arrangement.

What if the drivers breach the isolation rules and go off the hotel site?

Systems are in place so that the lorry drivers do not need to leave the hotel grounds. The councils will be in touch with them each day and hotel staff are available to the drivers with anything extra they may need. These processes ensure there is no need to leave the hotel site and there isn't an impact on the rest of the village.

Anyone breaching self-isolation instructions, including lorry drivers staying at the hotel, can be fined up to £10,000. However, the authorities are working together to ensure there is no need for anyone isolating to leave the hotel for anything.

Will there be any further costs for local councils?

DfT is covering all the costs of the hotel. This includes food and refreshments. We will be working together to ensure drivers have anything else they need to isolate safely. If there are costs this will be covered by the additional funding the government provided SCDC and CCC to mitigate some of the additional costs of Coronavirus.