



Department for  
Digital, Culture,  
Media & Sport

Caroline Dinenage MP  
Minister of State for Digital and Culture  
4th Floor  
100 Parliament Street  
London SW1A 2BQ

E: [enquiries@dcms.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@dcms.gov.uk)

[www.gov.uk/dcms](http://www.gov.uk/dcms)

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**To All MPs**

Dear MP,

**Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme Extension**

I am writing to inform you that we are continuing the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme across the UK for this year's Spending Review, on the same terms as before.

I am delighted to be able to continue this scheme, which for nearly 10 years has been a massive support to these institutions large and small. I know that many of you have a listed place of worship in your constituency - the current total is nearly 15,000 In England alone!

Listed places of worship represent some of the nation's finest heritage: 46% of all Grade I buildings are churches or cathedrals. UK-wide, there are approximately 21,160 listed places of worship, many of which are in need of repairs that are complex and costly.

The Government recognises the importance of these unique cultural assets through the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme, established to provide grants towards VAT paid on repairs and maintenance to the nation's listed churches and cathedrals. Since its inception twenty years ago in 2001, the scheme has played a significant part in ensuring that they are now in their best overall condition for many years. Following DCMS and HM Treasury assuming joint funding of the scheme in 2012, grants totalling nearly £400 million have been issued. It presently handles around 7,000 claims per annum.

By extending this scheme we will continue to benefit listed places of worship across the country, central to the Government's enduring commitment to promoting and preserving our nation's heritage and historic buildings. Listed places of worship have also provided a much needed space for prayer, rest, contemplation and well-being during the Coronavirus pandemic. Some have provided vital community support, outreach for the vulnerable, shopping services for those shielding, and some have even been transformed into vaccination centres, thereby playing a vital part in the fight against the virus.

The funding over 2021/22 will help ensure that these exceptional places are able to throw open their doors to their communities again, as soon as it is safe to do so. I hope you will be pleased by this good news, and spread the word among your local faith representatives.

Yours sincerely,

Caroline Dinenage MP  
**Minister of State for Digital and Culture**

