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I wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and a safe, prosperous and happy new year.

Christmas is also a time to relax and enjoy the company of family, friends and loved ones. While most of us will be enjoying Christmas at home, there will be many members of our emergency and security services, staff in the NHS and the Armed Forces who will be working throughout Christmas to keep us safe, take care of those who are ill and defend our country. I regularly meet with our police, fire and ambulance services, staff in the NHS and the Armed Forces who all do fantastic work showing great dedication and professionalism often in incredibly challenging and difficult circumstances. We should think of them, the work they do and their families who they may be apart from over the festive period.

Following the election of a majority Conservative Government at the General Election, in 2020 our country can move forward as we get Brexit done and focus on delivering on the Peoples' Priorities. The gridlock in Parliament that was so poisonous to our politics is over and we can leave the EU, secure a new trade deal and relationship with our European friends and stand tall in the world forming new partnerships with our global friends and allies. With a renewed focus on an ambitious domestic agenda, next year we will see our country transformed with investments in health services, education, social care, science, technology and infrastructure.

One of the biggest issues that will continue to affect this part of Essex next year will be the ongoing saga with the controversial development plans proposed by local councils. These plans are flawed and have delayed the important and long-awaited scheme to widen the A12. With further public hearings taking place early in the new year, this is a crucial time for the future of this part of Essex and one we should all be taking an interest in.

The Christmas and New Year period is a time to reflect on the last twelve months and look forward to 2020. Over the last year I have been pleased to work to support thousands of families and support communities across the Witham constituency. This includes getting over £1 billion of investment for our rail services, meaning the roll out of new trains which we should all get to benefit from in 2020. Progress is being made getting a new multipurpose healthcare centre in Witham to increase capacity and provide more local services for people in this part of Essex. I have secured nearly £3 million of new funding for schools in the Witham constituency next year to help raise education standards. More police are on our streets fighting crime and I have been working with communities to target crime and anti-social behaviour.

with am good wishes
P. Patel

Rt Hon Priti Patel MP
Member of Parliament for Witham

Putting the Witham Constituency, Essex and Britain first.