



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Lisa Nandy MP
Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
100 Parliament Street
London
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4th March 2026

RE: 'THE HAY WAIN' BY JOHN CONSTABLE

I am writing to you in my capacity as the Member of Parliament for South Suffolk, in relation to *'The Hay Wain'* by John Constable.

As you may be aware, this year marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of Suffolk-born artist, John Constable (1776-1837). Known for his famous landscapes such as *'The Hay Wain'* and *'Dedham Vale'*, Constable went on to become one of the most famous British painters in history. In addition to his national cultural impact, Constable has had a profound effect on my constituency, given that his most popular landscape paintings are based on what is now known as Constable Country in South Suffolk. Every year the area receives thousands of tourists excited to view the iconic landscape and experience the beautiful environment in person.

To commemorate his life and work, local museums are presenting a programme of exhibitions and activities, at the centre of which *'The Hay Wain'* will be on display at Ipswich's Christchurch Mansion later this year. As I understand, this will be the painting's first-ever visit to the county it depicts.

Given the cultural significance of the painting, I would like to request that on its journey from the National Gallery in London, to its destination of Christchurch Mansion in Ipswich, *'The Hay Wain'* stops off in Flatford, at the painting's inspiration, to commemorate the landscape in which it depicts. This is an incredibly popular area due to John Constable, so I know that bringing his most famous artwork to Flatford would have a great impact on the local tourism industry. If there is a more suitable avenue in which to raise this query, for example, directly with the National Gallery, then please do let me know. Further to this, I should be very grateful if you could please share more information about its journey to Ipswich, to gain a clearer understanding of the timeline in which this visit may occur.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

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Member of Parliament for South Suffolk

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