



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP
*Secretary of State for Housing, Communities
and Local Government*

**Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local
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Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 22 May asking for clarification on the proposed further measures the Government is taking in instances where concerns are raised that there is too high a concentration of authorised sites in one location.

As you are already aware, the Government's response to the consultation on unauthorised development and encampments was published on 6 February alongside a Written Ministerial Statement setting out the package of commitments to be taken forward. The package includes a wide range of measures including reforms to police powers, guidance and support to local authorities, measures to encourage site provision, and other support for the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Community.

The Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) sets out that local planning authorities should ensure that sites in rural areas respect the scale of, and do not dominate, the nearest settled community, and avoid placing an undue pressure on the local infrastructure. Responses to the recent consultation on powers for dealing with unauthorised developments and encampments expressed concerns about a local authority's ability to turn down planning applications where there are already significant numbers of authorised sites. In accordance with the PPTS I have committed to introduce further guidance making clear that I will be prepared to review cases where concerns are raised that there is too high a concentration of authorised traveller sites in one location, on a case by case basis.

I would also like to reassure you that we fully recognise our responsibilities under the Public Sector Equality Duty and are committed to increasing outcomes for Gypsies, Roma and Travellers, as well as settled communities.

I would once again like to thank you for raising this important matter.

Yours ever,

RT HON JAMES BROKENSHERE MP