

from Baroness Whitaker



Rt Hon Caroline Nokes MP
Chair of the Women and Equalities Committee
By email

7 July 2020

Re: Inquiry into tackling inequalities faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities

Dear Caroline

We write as Co-chair and Honorary President of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Gypsies, Travellers and Roma regarding the Committee's Inquiry 'Tackling inequalities faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities'.

The Inquiry helpfully highlighted some of the stark inequalities experienced by Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities and initiated, under my time as Communities Minister, a Government commitment to develop a cross-departmental Strategy to address the inequalities. We have, unfortunately, seen little progress in the development of the Strategy and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has compounded the marginalisation experienced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.

We note the Committee requested that the Government report back on the progress of the commitments outlined in their response to the WEC Inquiry within 12 months (from June 2019). As this 12 month period has now passed, we would very much appreciate if you would provide us with an update on the next steps of the Committee with regard to monitoring the Government commitments it made in response to the Committee's recommendations.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of Nick Bourne in black ink.

Handwritten signature of Janet Whitaker in black ink.

Lord Bourne
Honorary President, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Gypsies Travellers and Roma
Baroness Janet Whitaker

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