



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Lord Greenhalgh
Minister of State, Ministry of Housing,
Communities and Local Government

20th 9th 2020

Re: Gypsy & Traveller communities

We write as Co-chairs and Honorary President of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Gypsies, Travellers and Roma, to request a meeting with you to discuss some of the issues faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities and Government work in this area.

Firstly, we would like to thank you for the letter you sent to local authorities in April, with guidance on how to support Gypsy and Traveller communities during Covid-19. Your letter had a noticeable impact on the way in which authorities provided services for Gypsy and Traveller communities, particularly for those living in caravans with a more nomadic way of life. Some authorities set up temporary stopping sites, halted evictions, provided bins, water and sanitation, all of which are essential for families in order to follow the public health guidelines and keep families safe during the pandemic. We also welcome the Covid-19 guidance for individuals leading a nomadic way of life published this month.

We are however concerned that with the number of Covid-19 cases increasing and the re-introduction of restrictions that it would be incredibly helpful to revisit the guidance in your former letter and consider reissuing it to local authorities. This would act as a helpful reminder for local authorities to ensure that some of the most marginalised communities are safeguarded and afforded the most basic of amenities. As you may be aware the Scottish Government/ COSLA produced this [Coronavirus: Framework to Support Gypsy/Travellers](#), and the Welsh Government produced [Guidance for those supporting Gypsy and Traveller communities: COVID-19](#).

Martin Docherty-Hughes MP

Member of Parliament for West Dunbartonshire | Scottish National Party
Titan Enterprise Business Centre, 1 Aurora Avenue, Queens Quay, Clydebank, Dunbartonshire, G81 1BF

T: 0141 952 2988 | E: martin.docherty.mp@parliament.uk | W: martindocherty.scot

Cont'd

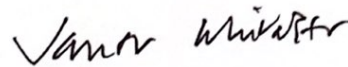
We were encouraged by your response to Baroness Whitaker in the End of Eviction Moratorium UQs and wonder if you might clarify that the protections and rules issued to the courts apply to Gypsies and Travellers living on unauthorised encampments, including no enforcement of evictions in areas of local lockdown and over the Christmas period?

We are also very interested to learn about any developments with the cross-departmental strategy to address the inequalities faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities. We look forward to hearing back from you with a proposed date to meet.

Yours sincerely,

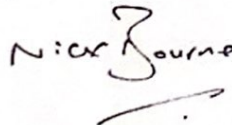


Martin Docherty-Hughes M.P.



Baroness Janet Whitaker

Co-Chairs, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Gypsies Travellers and Roma



Lord Nick Bourne
Honorary President, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Gypsies Travellers and Roma