

from Baroness Whitaker



Jo Churchill MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Prevention, Public Health and Primary Care)

By email: 30 November 2020

Re: Ensuring accessibility of Test and Trace to all groups

Dear Jo,

Thank you for your correspondence of 24th November in response to our letter to Matt Hancock about Public Health England's 'Disparities in the risk and outcomes of COVID-19' publication.

We note in the letter you mention, in particular, the work the health and care sector is doing to ensure that NHS Test and Trace is accessible for all groups in society and that there is high take-up and cooperation with Test and Trace in all ethnic groups and communities.

We are particularly concerned about the inaccessibility of testing for people living on roadside camps and on boats across the country under current arrangements. People living on roadside camps and on boats have no address to receive home testing kits or may use care of addresses which are some distance from where they are stopping on or where they are moored. Therefore, the only options offered to many people living on roadside camps and on boats currently is to drive to testing centres or walk in centres.

Yet, the Government's website advises that only small vehicles will be able to access test centres so it is likely that the large vehicles typical within roadside camps may not be able to drive into test centres. On a similar vein, people living on boats often have no access to land based vehicles with which to drive to testing centres. Both people living on roadside camps and on boats are likely to be based in rural locations and therefore far away from walk-in test centres.

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As part of your work to ensure
NHS Test and Trace is

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accessible to everyone, we are keen to hear if you have considered issues with access to testing for people living on roadside camps and boats and how people in these accommodation types can access testing across the country.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely

Janet Whitaker

A stylized, cursive signature in black ink.

Baroness Janet Whitaker and Martin Docherty-Hughes MP
Co-chairs, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Gypsies Travellers and Roma

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