



Home Office

Home Secretary

2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF
www.gov.uk/home-office

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

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Dear Michael,

Thank you for your letter of 13 March on behalf of your constituents about unauthorised encampments and the police response, including powers to tackle them.

I am aware of the challenges locations across the country face when tackling unauthorised encampments. The distress local communities face as a consequence of some unauthorised encampments is unacceptable and I am clear that the response to unauthorised traveller sites requires a locally driven, multi-agency response, supported by both local authorities and the police.

I would also like to assure you that we are conducting a review into how we might criminalise the act of trespassing when setting up an encampment. In November 2019, we launched the 'Strengthening Police Powers to Tackle Unauthorised Encampments' consultation to seek views on the above proposals.

Responses to the consultation are currently being reviewed to determine next steps and a Government response will be issued in due course.

I hope you and your constituents find this letter reassuring. Thank you, once again, for taking the time to write to me.

With all good wishes

Rt Hon Priti Patel MP