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Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
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Dear Michael,

Thank you for your letter of 26 May informing me of a recent incursion in your constituency and for your enquiry in relation to the progress of work looking at strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments.

I am very sorry to hear about the distress suffered by the residents of Lightwater caused by the anti-social behavior of an encampment in their town. The behavior of those associated with the encampment was totally unacceptable and I am pleased to hear that Surrey Police took enforcement action to ensure the removal of the encampment.

As you are aware from our last correspondence, my officials have been analysing responses to the recent Government consultation on strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments. I can confirm that this analysis is now almost completed and that I will very shortly receive the findings of the consultation from which I will determine the next steps. My department also plans to publish a full Government response to the consultation in due course.

I appreciate you taking the time to write to me about this and I hope that you are reassured that work is progressing to find suitable solutions to address this important issue.

With our good wishes

Rt Hon Priti Patel MP