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Thank you for your letter of 28 November to the Home Secretary about your concerns regarding your concerns over the ongoing Government review on unauthorised developments and encampments. I am replying as Minister for Policing and the Fire Service.

I appreciate the concerns you have raised, as are the Government about the the inequalities experienced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, particularly in health and education.

As you are aware, the Government carried out a consultation, through which views were sought on the effectiveness of enforcement against unauthorised developments and encampments. My officials are now working with others across Government in considering options to address this issue. A Government response to the consultation will be issued in due course.

In your letter you raise the issues of insufficient accommodation being available to meet the needs of the Travelling community. As you will appreciate, these are matters for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). I note that you have already met with the Minister for Housing and please be assured that the Home Office and MHCLG will be working closely together to find a resolution to some of the difficult issues that this review raises.

RT HON NICK HURD MP
Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service