



Department for  
Digital, Culture,  
Media & Sport

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Kate Green MP  
House of Commons  
London  
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Our Ref: MC2020/07098/SP

Dear Kate,

Thank you for your correspondence of 12 May to the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, the Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP, on behalf of the APPG for Gypsies Roma and Travellers, regarding Channel 4's "The Truth about Traveller Crime". I am responding as the minister responsible for this policy area.

Regarding your official complaint with Ofcom, the independent broadcasting regulator has confirmed that the case is currently being assessed to determine whether Ofcom should proceed to investigation. The outcome of that process will be published in Ofcom's broadcast bulletins, which are available online: <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/about-ofcom/latest/bulletins/broadcast-bulletins>.

The government is clear that all forms of hate crime are completely unacceptable. In recognition of the role that political discourse, the print media and social media may have on hate crime, the government's Hate Crime Action Plan sets out a number of commitments, including publication of the Online Harms White Paper, a communications campaign to increase public awareness of hate crime, and work with the Society of Editors and IPSO, one of the press regulators.

The current Hate Crime Action Plan is a four-year plan and is due to run until July 2020. Regarding your point on under-reporting, the government is aware that Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities under-report hate crime. This is why we worked with the police, and created a separate reporting page for Gypsies, Roma and Travellers on their hate crime reporting portal, True Vision.

In relation to how the media reports on topics, the government cannot intervene in what the print media publish. The print media are self-regulated under two independent regulators, IPSO and IMPRESS who set Codes of Practice. These codes include requirements around accurate reporting. You may wish to direct your complaints about inaccuracies to the relevant newspaper, or to IPSO or IMPRESS. The complaints process for IPSO can be found <https://www.ipso.co.uk/complain/> and for IMPRESS, <https://www.impress.press/complaints/>.

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