

The Rt Hon Dame Diana Johnson DBE MP  
Minister of State (Minister for Policing and Crime Reduction)  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

April 2025

Dear Minister,

**Re: repeal of Part 4 of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act**

We write to you as civil society organisations to urge you repeal of Part 4 of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act (PCSCA) through the Crime and Policing Bill (2025).

As you will know, Part 4 of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 introduced further police powers against encampments, with the power to ban Gypsies and Travellers from an area for up to 12 months, alongside powers to fine, arrest, imprison and seize the homes of Gypsies and Travellers. This further legislating against the communities, came in the backdrop of generation upon generation of prejudice and discrimination experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities.

After a successful judicial review challenge against the new police powers, in May 2024 the [High Court ruled](#) that the powers contained within Part 4, which increased the length of time a family could be banned from an area from 3 months to 12 months, were incompatible with the Human Rights Act. The Judge also concluded that, 'Any decision to seize and retain vehicles or caravans that are used as homes would quite clearly cause real hardship and would involve a very significant interference within interests falling within the ambit of Article 8.'

Government must address this incompatibility with human rights legislation and the Crime and Policing Bill provides an opportunity to address this, by introducing a new clause to repeal all of Part 4 of the PCSCA.

Since the High Court ruling in May 2024, after correspondence on this matter, the Government have acknowledged the judgment and stated that Government are 'considering the best way forward'. Almost one year has now passed since the High Court issued this declaration of incompatibility with no clear indication as to when this will be addressed.

Further to the judgment itself, human rights bodies have continued to raise concerns about the increasing police powers against Gypsies and Travellers, including most recently (March 2025) the UN [Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#), who issued a formal recommendation to the UK Government to repeal Part 4 of the PCSCA.

It is also worth drawing on the police forces and Police Crime Commissioners [responses](#) to the Government consultation on the powers (2018), which showed 84% of police responses did not support the criminalisation of unauthorised encampments, with 75% of police responses stating that pre-existing police powers were sufficient and/or proportionate.

The Crime and Policing Bill provides a clear opportunity for the Government to set things right by repealing Part 4 of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022. We urge you to introduce a new clause to the Bill to that effect.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Mann, *Chief Executive Officer*, **Friends, Families and Travellers**

Tom Southerden, *Law and Human Rights Director*, **Amnesty UK**

Sam Grant, *Director of External Relations*, **Liberty**

Paul Parker, *Recording Clerk*, **Quakers in Britain**

Rick Henderson, *Chief Executive Officer*, **Homeless Link**

Guy Shrubsole, *Co-founder*, **Right to Roam**

Jess McQuail, *Director*, **Just Fair**

Lee Jasper, *Chair*, **Alliance of Police Accountability**

Gary Hayes *Member*, **British Institute of Human Rights**

Ghadah Alnasseri, *Co-Executive Director*, **Imkaan**

Tom Brake, *Director*, **Unlock Democracy**

Rob McDowall, *Chair*, **Welfare Scotland**

Simon Gale, *Chief Executive Officer*, **Justlife Foundation**

David Rowlands, *Policy Manager*, **Tai Pawb**

Louise King, *Co-director*, **Just for Kids Law** and **Children's Rights Alliance for England**

Violet Cannon, *Chief Executive Officer*, **York Travellers Trust**

Ben Gilchrist, *Chief Executive Officer*, **Caritas Shrewsbury**

Debby Kennett, *Chief Executive Officer*, **London Gypsies and Travellers**

Ellie Rogers, *Chief Executive Officer*, **Leeds Gypsy and Traveller Exchange**

Josie O Driscoll, *Chief Executive Officer*, **GATE Herts**

Caroline Dann, *Director*, **TravellerSpace**

Red Fletcher, *Care Navigator*, **The Clare Project**

Revd. Canon Dr. Nichola Chater, *Chair*, **Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Friendly Churches**