



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

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

19 May 2025

Dear Diana,

Re: addressing a declaration of incompatibility with human rights on policing powers against Gypsies and Travellers

Just to follow up on our conversation about the police powers against Gypsy and Traveller encampments, brought in by the last Government.

As you know, the declaration of incompatibility with human rights legislation, issued by the High Court in May 2024, needs to be addressed by Government.

Part 4 of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act introduced further policing powers to the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act, adding to the already robust powers police had. Whilst the declaration of incompatibility referred to some of the harsher provisions, namely the power to ban Gypsies and Travellers from an area for 12 months (an increase from 3 months), I, and others, are keen to see a full repeal of Part 4 PCSCA and the new provisions it inserted into the CJPOA.

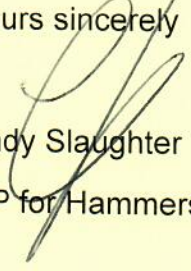
Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers have long been vilified and marginalised, and I would urge you to take action to change the approach adopted by the previous Government and address this unresolved legal issue.

The current Crime and Policing Bill provides an immediate opportunity to repeal the Part 4 Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act police powers but you have indicated that whilst Government is intending to address this, it is not via this Bill. Myself and colleagues in the APPG for Gypsies, Travellers and Roma have been discussing amendments to the Crime in Policing Bill to this effect.



I would be grateful if you could give a concrete timeline on next steps and detail on how you intend to address this matter, ideally ahead of the next stages of the Crime and Policing Bill. As a whole year has passed since the High Court judgment, we are keen to see this progress, particularly important for those who are on the sharp end of these human rights breaching police powers.

Yours sincerely


Andy Slaughter

MP for Hammersmith and Chiswick.