

Attorney General's Office, 102 Petty France, London, SW1H 9EA.

By email to: correspondence@attorneygeneral.gov.uk

10 July 2025

Dear Lord Hermer,

Re: Repeal of Part 4 of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (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.

Following a judicial review of the new police powers, the <u>High Court ruled</u> in May 2024 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.'

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

The government must act on the Declaration of Incompatibility without further delay. APPG member and Chair of the Justice Committee Andy Slaughter MP tabled a new clause to the Crime and Policing Bill (NC25), which would repeal all of Part 4 of the PCSCA. We urge the government to support this amendment, thereby addressing the High Court's Declaration and undoing the injustices which prompted this rare ruling by the judge.

Yours sincerely,

Mary K Foy MP

Chair, APPG for Gypsies, Travellers and Roma

**Baroness Janet Whitaker** 

Co-Chair, APPG for Gypsies, Travellers and Roma.

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