

The Rt Hon Dame Diana Johnson DBE MP

Cc: The Rt Hon Lord Hanson of Flint, hansond@parliament.uk

By email: 20 Jan 2025

Dear Diana,

Re: Police, Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022- incompatibility with the Human Rights Act

We write to urge you to address the [High Court judgment](#) of May 2024, which found that certain provisions contained within Part 4 Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (PCSC), to be incompatible with the Human Rights Act.

The PCSC Act introduced new police powers targeting encampments, with the power to ban Gypsies and Travellers from an area for up to 12 months, to arrest, imprison, fine, and seize the homes of Gypsies and Travellers. The powers were brought in despite a range of pre-existing powers and widespread opposition from human rights campaigners, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights and the Joint Committee on Human Rights.

The threat to the rights of Gypsies and Travellers was recognised in the judgment from the judicial review challenge against the Government on the matter. The 'declaration of incompatibility' was issued by the Court under Section 4 of the Human Rights Act and no doubt you will be considering how to address this.

Previous correspondence on this has confirmed 'the government acknowledges and respects the decision of the High Court' and that the Home Office 'are currently carefully considering the judgment in order to determine the best way forward'. However, some time has passed since the judgment, with no clear indication of when this breach of human rights protections will be rectified.

As we understand, a new Crime and Policing Bill will be introduced this year. May we urge you to repeal the powers brought in by Part 4 of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 during the passage of this Bill?

We look forward to hearing from you.



For Gypsies,
Travellers and
Roma

Mary K Foy

Janet Whitaker

Mary Kelly Foy MP and Baroness Janet Whitaker
Chair and Co-chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Gypsies, Travellers and Roma

Nick Bourne

Lord Nick Bourne
Honorary President, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Gypsies, Travellers and Roma

Sarah

Sarah Dyke MP
Vice Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Gypsies, Travellers and Roma

gypsy-traveller.org/appg All Party Parliamentary Group for Gypsies, Travellers and Roma

Co-chairs: Mary Foy MP, Baroness Janet Whitaker | Honorary President: Lord Nick Bourne

Friends, Families & Travellers (Charity Number: 1112326) acts as Secretariat to the APPG for Gypsies, Travellers and Roma.

@APPGGTR | T: 01273 234 777 | E: appg@gypsy-traveller.org