

James Murray MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

July 2026

Dear James

Re: Health inequalities faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people

We write as Chair and Co-chair of the APPG for Gypsies, Travellers and Roma to welcome you to your new post as Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.

We wish to emphasise the enduring and stark health inequalities that Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people face. The communities have the poorest health outcomes of any ethnic group, even when controlling for other factors such as socio-economic status. This is why Gypsies, Roma and Travellers are considered an 'inclusion health' group, as well as the fact that the communities face disproportionate and [multiple risk factors](#) for poor health such as social exclusion, discrimination and poverty. As a result, there is a much higher prevalence of disabilities, long-term illness and significantly lower life expectancies.

Despite the known health inequalities, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people are not included in national health coding. This means that there is little national data available on the health status of the communities, resulting in reliance on smaller scale studies or anecdotal evidence. This lack of data prevents the targeted commissioning of research or services to the populations most in need.

Given this, we are especially concerned to hear of the defunding of the Health and Wellbeing Alliance (HWalliance). The HWalliance was an essential tool to address the lack of national data on inequalities faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people. It commissioned research to fill gaps in knowledge. It also acted as a bridge between high-level systems and Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities on the ground. In doing so, it brought lived experience into national health policy. The HWalliance also served as a mechanism of accountability for healthcare systems and services, meaning the most excluded communities across the UK could feed back on their experiences.

The 10 Year Plan aims to deliver more person-centred and preventative healthcare, yet it makes no reference to inclusion health groups despite their significantly poorer health outcomes. Through the HWalliance, the Inclusion Health subgroup provided a

[response](#) to the Plan and recommendations on how it could better support inclusion health groups. The loss of the HWalliance at this critical stage risks further marginalising Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities unless alternative mechanisms are established.

We would be grateful if you can update us on how your department intends to address the health inequalities experienced by Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities, with an update on how and when Government is moving forward with implementing consistent disaggregated ethnicity data capturing across health systems.

We would also welcome the opportunity to meet with you and bring together community representatives and organisations working with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, to explore opportunities for collaboration and to discuss how national health policy can better respond to the significant health inequalities experienced by these communities.



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