



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Minister Stephen Greenhalgh

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Dear colleagues,

COVID-19 – REASSESSING AND MITIGATING IMPACTS ON GYPSY & TRAVELLER COMMUNITIES

Thank you for your continued work in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. I commend the excellent work that you and your staff are doing during this unprecedented time.

I particularly want to thank you for your work to support Gypsy and Traveller communities, including families living roadside, during the first wave of the pandemic. I have heard how many local authorities acted quickly and provided access to alternative sites, water, sanitation and refuse facilities for Gypsy and Traveller communities that needed support. Following my [letter](#) in April, it is likely that local interventions and support will be needed once again over the coming months to ensure the safety of Gypsy and Traveller communities and to contain the spread of the virus.

Information on the new national restrictions that came into force on 5 November can be found [here](#).

We know that some Gypsies and Travellers, especially those living in caravans, in vehicles and canal boats, are likely to be disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and that social distancing or self-isolation can be particularly challenging for members of the communities. That is why the government has also published public health [guidance](#) to help those leading a nomadic way of life.

Local authorities may want to reassess the support that is required in local areas for Gypsies and Travellers during the current national lockdown, to ensure public health advice can be followed.

Thank you for your continued dedication.

STEPHEN GREENHALGH
MINISTER FOR COMMUNITIES