



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Priti Patel MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London, SW1P 4DF

11 March 2020

Dear Home Secretary,

I am writing to you as the constituency MP for Esher and Walton, as I was encouraged by the measures outlined in your department's consultation on strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments, which closed on 5 March.

Elmbridge has experienced significant problems with unauthorised traveller sites. This was most acute during the summer of 2018, when I received a significant volume of correspondence from constituents regarding the number of illegal incursions across the borough.

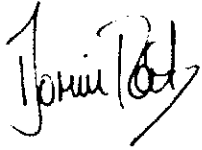
While this problem has been temporarily alleviated by the three-year injunction secured by Elmbridge Borough Council – which lasts until 9 November 2021 – this is clearly not a permanent solution.

I am therefore writing to express my strong support for all of the measures outlined in the consultation, including:

1. Criminalising the act of trespassing when setting up an unauthorised encampment in England and Wales;
2. Amending the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, to:
 - a. Permit the police to direct trespassers to suitable authorised sites located in neighbouring local authority areas;
 - b. Increase the period of time in which trespassers directed from land would be unable to return from 3 months to 12 months;
 - c. Lower the number of vehicles needing to be involved in an unauthorised encampment before police powers can be exercised from six to two or more vehicles;
 - d. Enable the police to remove trespassers from land that forms part of the highway.

I would be very grateful if you could let me know which of these measures will be taken forward.

I look forward to hearing from you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonni O'Leary". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a stylized 'O'.