



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Luke Stephens

Head of Ministerial Correspondence

**Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local
Government**

Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Dr Siobhan Spencer
NFGLG
Offices 1-3
Ladygrove Mill
Ladygrove Road
Two Dales
Nr Matlock

www.gov.uk/mhclg

Our Ref:6633440

21 April 2020

Dear Dr Siobhan Spencer

Thank you for your email of 23 March to Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP. I have been asked to reply.

You may be aware that we wrote to all local authority chief executives on 11 April to highlight the specific support that some Gypsies and Travellers may need in accessing basic facilities such as water, sanitation and waste disposal to help with self-isolation and social distancing.

Whilst addressing issues regarding unauthorised encampment is a matter for local authorities in line with their powers under Sections 77 and 78 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act (1994), individuals worried about being made homeless should speak to their local council, who have a duty to help. Individuals can find information on how to contact their local council at: www.gov.uk/find-local-council.

The Government recently announced a scheme for those who are self-employed to claim a taxable grant worth 80% of their trading profits up to a maximum of £2500 per month for the next 3 months. This may be extended if needed: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-a-grant-through-the-coronavirus-covid-19-self-employment-income-support-scheme>

The Minister for Rough Sleeping and Housing also wrote to caravan site owners and managers on 27 March to ensure people who live permanently in caravan parks, or are staying in caravan parks while their primary residence is unavailable, may continue to do so: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/letter-from-minister-hall-to-caravan-and-park-home-owners>.

Finally, I should emphasise that the Government has also brought forward a package of measures to protect renters affected by coronavirus (COVID-19). With these in force, no renter in either social or private accommodation should be forced out of their home. Authorised Gypsy and Traveller sites and Park Homes are also covered by the recent Practice Direction halting possession claims: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/government-support-available-for-landlords-and-renters-reflecting-the-current-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

The Government is committed to ensuring everyone is supported in following the Public Health England advice of self-isolation and social distancing during this COVID-19 pandemic.

I am grateful for all the work you and your organisation are doing in supporting the Gypsy and Traveller communities.

LUKE STEPHENS
Head of Ministerial Correspondence