

Measures for Dealing With Illegal Encampments

I have written to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to urge him to press on with stronger measures to deal with illegal encampments, particularly the Government review on the 'Irish model' which criminalises trespass in certain circumstances. I have written in similar terms to the Home Secretary and the Justice Secretary.

THE RT HON SIR JOHN REDWOOD MP, D.Phil, FCSI



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

2 September 2019

Dear Robert

This summer has seen a great number of illegal encampments in my constituency. In one instance, the residents have taken turns sleeping in their cars for weeks on end in order to barricade the entrance to their estate and they are understandably frustrated by the lack of any effective action which can be taken. They have told me that they have also been subjected to threats and taunts by those who are trying to establish the illegal encampment.

I am aware that the Government responded earlier this year to the consultation on the powers to deal with unauthorised development and encampments. I understand that it is conducting a review of the 'Irish model' for dealing with unauthorised encampments which criminalises trespass in certain circumstances as the majority of respondents to the consultation believe the Government should consider criminalising unauthorised encampments in England.

While the powers that police and councils now have has made it quicker to remove encampments, the great inconvenience to residents, instances of anti-social behaviour, and the expense that local authorities must incur to clean up needs to be addressed summarily and not have to wait for a lengthy review.

I should be grateful for a response which I can forward to my constituents to assure them that the Government is indeed taking seriously their concerns and that effective measures will be put into place.

Yours ever

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'John Redwood'.