



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

John Finnie

Member of the Scottish Parliament
Highlands and Islands

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Ball Pàrlamaid na h-Alba
A' Ghàidhealtachd agus na h-Eileanan

Home Secretary Priti Patel
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

30th September 2020

Dear Priti

Comments on the Traveller Community

I am writing you regarding comments you made recently regarding the Traveller community. I was shocked by your unfounded characterisation of a whole community as criminal and violent.

The kind of language you used can, and does, stir up hatred against Travellers and directly contributes to a culture in which it is acceptable to abuse and discriminate against members of that community.

I would urge you not only to apologise for your harmful remarks but to take steps to ensure that this doesn't happen again. By undergoing equality training you and your party colleagues might more fully understand the damage your remarks can do to people's lives.

It would be the very least you could do.

Yours sincerely

John Finnie MSP