Mr Cummings maintains that he drove his family to Barnard Castle to check whether or not he was fit to drive after falling ill himself while in County Durham.

"Do I feel ok driving, I think the trip, if you can't drive 30 miles and feel ok then you know you are not able to drive 300 miles the next day, right... it was as simple as that."

A Number 10 spokesperson told the BBC:

'Since the start of the pandemic, the Prime Minister has taken the necessary action to protect lives and livelihoods, guided by the best scientific advice. The government he leads has delivered the fastest vaccination rollout in Europe, saved millions of jobs through the furlough scheme and prevented the NHS from being overwhelmed through three national lockdowns. The government is entirely focused on emerging cautiously from the pandemic and building back better.'

ENDS

[19/07/2021, 20:47:43] Boris Johnson: Cummings a total and utter liar

He never told me he had gone to Durham during lockdown

I only discovered when the stories started to come out about Barnard castle etc

I believed Mary Wakefield when she wrote a piece in spec giving the impression they had been in London the whole time

He later claimed that he had told me but that my brain was so fogged by COVID that i didn't register

It's not true. I would have noted it.

He never told me. I then tried my very best to defend him. [19/07/2021, 20:50:58] Boris Johnson: Plus the stuff about the queen is total fantasy [19/07/2021, 20:51:20] Jack Doyle : Yep [19/07/2021, 20:51:29] Boris Johnson: Why is the bbc carrying this. It's the end of Kuenssberg. [19/07/2021, 20:51:43] Jack Doyle : Luckily people think he's a liar [19/07/2021, 21:06:25] Jack Doyle : She must realise that as well. I wonder if the penny has dropped at the Bbc

Irrelevant & Sensitive