

# MAYOR OF LONDON

**The Prime Minister**  
10 Downing Street  
London, SW1A 0AA

**Date:** 29 May 2020

Dear Boris,

I am writing to you following your appearance at the House of Commons Liaison Committee.

In response to a question from London MP Stephen Timms about a family struggling during lockdown because of the no recourse to public funds (NRPF) condition, you rightly said that *'people who have worked hard for this country, who live and work here, should have support of one kind or another'*. You also committed to find out how many people are in this position and what your government can do to help.

I wrote to you about Londoners who are struggling with the NRPF condition on 30th March, and I wrote to the Home Secretary on 28th April urging a speedy response on this issue. I am writing again to reiterate the appalling situation many Londoners are finding themselves in.

Despite their contribution to London's society and economy, tens of thousands of Londoners struggle without support as a result of the NRPF condition, including key workers such as delivery drivers, cleaners, carers and NHS staff. Londoners with NRPF are facing homelessness, are denied access to Universal Credit support when they lose their income and their children are refused access to child-related benefits. Children are especially harmed, as highlighted in a recent legal challenge in which the policy was found to be unlawful. Survivors of domestic violence with NRPF face additional challenges to fleeing abuse and seeking out support during this time.

Across local government, there has been a collective call to suspend NRPF and wider immigration-based exclusions during this crisis to enable people to access the support they need and, crucially, to help stop the spread of COVID-19 among those who need to self-isolate safely without losing income. The GLA and local authorities have worked tirelessly to support rough sleepers to access safe accommodation, despite a lack of clarity from Ministers on how to support those with NRPF. Local authorities do not have the capacity to address the scale of need for support to people with NRPF, without a significant shift in policy from your government. It is crucial that the impact of immigration-based exclusions from welfare and homelessness assistance are reviewed urgently and that changes are made to adapt to these exceptional times.

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You have an opportunity now to ameliorate the struggles of countless people facing destitution without access to the welfare safety net during these difficult times, and to end rough sleeping for good. During this pandemic, thousands have faced a cliff edge of destitution and timely action from you will ensure that more do not end up in this situation.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Personal Data

**Sadiq Khan**  
Mayor of London

Cc: Paul Scully MP, Minister for London