



Jonathan Gullis MP

Member of Parliament for Stoke-on-Trent North, Kidsgrove and Talke

Mr Jonathan Gullis MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Our Ref: JG2056

28 May 2020

Dear Mr Gullis

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding Dominic Cummings.

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for doing the right thing. The people of Stoke-on-Trent North, Kidsgrove and Talke have followed the advice and sacrificed so many of their personal freedoms to stop the spread of this virus. It has come at a huge cost with people losing loved ones they weren't able to see, missing important milestone birthdays in a young person's life or having been alone at home, without anyone able to visit them which will have had a big impact on their mental health.

It is because of your efforts and the efforts of those who live in the constituency we were able to stop the Royal Stoke University Hospital and Haywood Walk-In Centre from becoming overwhelmed. Nothing has raised my spirits more than seeing the videos of patients leaving these hospitals after fighting for their lives and winning. Never have I been so moved by seeing neighbours on their doorsteps across the streets of Stoke-on-Trent, Kidsgrove and Talke in applauding our care heroes.

I have been out with the HUBB Foundation, which has delivered over 43,000 meals across the north of Stoke-on-Trent, and the Salvation Army, Kidsgrove Tesco and Kidsgrove Coronavirus Support in Kidsgrove and Talke who have jointly delivered over 8,000 meals to the elderly and vulnerable, and I have never seen community spirit like this. I am deeply unhappy with the actions of Dominic Cummings, who has taken the attention away from those unsung and care heroes.

I do not know Dominic Cummings personally nor have I never met or spoken to him. My response was delayed because I felt it right and proper to listen to Dominic Cummings' statement to hear his reasoning behind the events.

I have read every email, including yours, that has come into my inbox. Like you, people are not happy and feel that it seems to be one rule for Mr Cummings and another for the rest of us.

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA Telephone 020 7219 4418

www.jonathangullis.com

jonathan.gullis.mp@parliament.uk

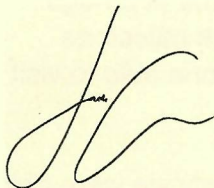
Whilst I believe there was no ill intention from Dominic Cummings and that he acted in what he perceived was in the best interest of his family, his decisions went against the spirit of the guidance. If I was in his position, I do not think I would have made the same decisions and Dominic Cummings' interpretation of the guidance was not shared by the majority of people in Stoke-on-Trent North, Kidsgrove and Talke, who have made many personal sacrifices.

I hope Dominic Cummings is willing to admit his judgement was questionable and apologise to the public. His actions have now undermined the Government's, and Public Health England's, serious message to "Stay at Home" during that particular period and will now mean a great deal of continued public good will is needed as we continue to socially distance and remain alert.

I have taken on all the feedback from constituents and have passed those to senior officials in Government along with my personal thoughts and concerns. This has become an unnecessary distraction from the key work of the Government as we begin to emerge from lockdown and prepare for the economic challenges we will face in Stoke-on-Trent, Kidsgrove and Talke in the coming months and years ahead.

Becoming the Member of Parliament for Stoke-on-Trent North, Kidsgrove and Talke remains one of the proudest moments of my life. I am sure you can understand my frustration that the actions of Dominic Cummings has meant I have taken time and energy away from the tireless work I am doing to try and get the investment and opportunity that is long overdue.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jonathan Gullis', written in a cursive style.

Jonathan Gullis