



Attorney
General's
Office

The Rt Hon. Sir Bob Neill MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Suella Braverman QC MP
Attorney General

Attorney General's Office
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9EA

Tel: 0207 271 2492

www.gov.uk/ago

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Dear Sir Bob,

Thank you for your letter of 16 September.

I acknowledge your concern about the issuing of fixed penalty notices (FPNs) disproportionately to people of BAME background. This is of course a serious issue that rightly deserves careful consideration. As you state, this data was published by the police themselves, through the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC). They are therefore alive to this issue, and the need for transparency and scrutiny: it is their central oversight of FPNs which means they are able to collate and analyse this information. In turn, it means that the data will fall to be interrogated and understood in each force by Chief Constables and by local scrutiny panels.

In relation to the review of these offences, I am pleased that the Crown Prosecution Service are continuing their monthly analysis of prosecutions of the recently created offences. That analysis identifies when errors are made and in doing so informs the joint work of police and prosecutors in gripping how these offences are enforced and, if necessary, prosecuted.

I welcome your questions regarding the parliamentary scrutiny of COVID-19 secondary legislation. As I know you will appreciate, we have had to take urgent action to stop the virus spreading, protect the NHS and save lives, and we will continue to need to do this. The timetabling of future legislation is a matter for the Business Managers, however, as the Secretary of State for Health has recently said, the Government will consult Parliament on significant national measures (with effect in the whole of England or UK wide) and wherever possible hold votes before they come into force. But, of course, responding to the virus means that there will be times when we must act with speed and I am sure that no Member would want to limit the Government's ability to take emergency action in the national interest.

I hope this is of assistance and thank you for your continued work on these issues.

*Yours sincerely,
Suella Braverman*

THE RT HON SUELLA BRAVERMAN QC MP
ATTORNEY GENERAL