



Home Office

Home Secretary  
Home Office  
2 Marsham Street  
SW1P 4DF  
[www.gov.uk/home-office](http://www.gov.uk/home-office)

Rt Hon. Yvette Cooper MP  
Chair, Home Affairs Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

09 April 2020

Dear Chair,

Thank you for your letter of 3 April regarding requirements for arrivals into the country from areas with a high Covid-19 prevalence.

Whilst I understand your concerns around this matter, let me be clear that there is no need to enforce additional self-isolation requirements on those entering the UK. The scientific advice is very clear that doing so at this time would not have any significant impact on epidemic progression in the UK.

The same social distancing rules apply to new arrivals into the UK as apply to the population as a whole, and, in particular, anyone developing symptoms will be required to self-isolate. The number of imported cases is a very small percentage of current cases in the UK, and incoming travellers from other countries which are also experiencing COVID-19 epidemics do not present a significant additional risk.

As the Minister for Immigration Compliance and the Courts set out on 23 March, we are being led by scientific advice on this and other matters. The Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) advised on 23 March that the numbers of cases arriving from other countries are estimated to be insignificant compared with domestic cases, comprising approximately 0.5% of total cases at the time. It is also worth noting that even in the short period since this advice was provided, daily passenger flow at the border has shown significant further reductions (of around 80%).

We are keeping this matter under continuous review. The scientific advice is being updated on an almost daily basis as the situation evolves, and we will react rapidly to any changes in that advice.

Yours sincerely

With all good wishes  


**Rt Hon Priti Patel MP**