[Your name and contact details]

[If you have an address, put it here. If you do not have an address, say “No Fixed Abode in” [Name constituency you are currently in]]

[date]

Dear Mr/Mrs/Ms [surname of MP],

**RE: Gypsy and Traveller Communities (Housing, Planning and Education) Bill 2017-9**

I am writing to raise my concerns with regards to the bill proposed by Andrew Selous MP, presented to the House of Commons on 13th November 2018, pending a second reading on 25th January 2019.

I am deeply concerned by the propositions made by Mr. Selous in this Bill, particularly those which show a deep disregard for the traditions and heritage of Gypsy and Traveller communities in the United Kingdom. In his bill, Selous calls for caravan sites to be converted to ‘settled accommodation’, unauthorised encampments to become a criminal offence and for councils to be released from the obligation to provide sites for Gypsies and Travellers.

Selous identifies that planning policy largely isn’t meeting the needs of Gypsy and Traveller communities, which is correct, but he has made a number of uninformed proposals which continue to ignore the needs and wishes of Gypsy and Traveller communities. The proposal that Gypsies and Travellers should be moved into bricks and mortar ignores a history of nomadism in England that has existed for centuries.

I am writing to ask that you support the recommendations of [Friends, Families and Travellers](https://www.gypsy-traveller.org/what-we-do/policy-2/) asking:

* For the MHCLG to ensure local authorities are identifying land for Gypsies and Travellers to live on.
* For the MHCLG to adopt a definition of a Traveller in planning terms that incorporates all Gypsies and Travellers who need a pitch to live on (as proposed in the [Draft London Plan](https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/london-plan/new-london-plan/download-draft-london-plan-0)).
* For the MHCLG to ring-fence Gypsy and Traveller pitch funding for local authorities to produce socially-rented pitches.
* For the MHCLG to begin to accurately record and monitor figures on actual net increase of Gypsy and Traveller pitches.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

[your name]