



The Rt Hon. Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

24 May 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

RE: Dominic Cummings

It is with regret that I write to you, however I feel that I must convey the strength of opinion amongst my constituents – as well as my own views – regarding the position of Dominic Cummings and the ongoing revelations about his behaviour during lock-down.

I would first like to thank you for the considerable efforts undertaken by you and the Government in dealing with the coronavirus crisis; I know how important the measures this Government have taken are to many families in supporting them and their livelihoods. I have heard countless examples from across Carshalton and Wallington in recent weeks on how critical the continuing Government stimulus is at this time, and the overwhelming support people have had for the lockdown measures. My constituents have worked hard to abide by these measures and do their part in tackling this public health crisis.

However, I fear that much of this is at risk of being undermined by the actions of Mr Cummings earlier in the lockdown, and the wider public perception of his behaviour now.

Let me say that I do not agree with trial by the media, and I am also deeply disturbed by the levels of vitriol he is currently being subjected to, and am particularly concerned for the welfare of his family at his home with campaigners and the media camped outside.

That said, at time of writing I have received over a hundred emails from constituents expressing their utter dismay at Mr Cummings' actions. Many have been in touch to discuss their own personal experiences of COVID-19 and lockdown, and exemplifying how they had worked hard to follow the rules set out by the Government and medical and scientific advisers. It is exceptionally difficult to defend Mr Cummings to my constituents in these circumstances.

I can very much sympathise with Mr Cummings' sincere wish to do the best thing for his family, and I know that some constituents are also sympathetic to that position. However, what is abundantly clear – from the vast majority of people who have contacted me so far – is that Mr Cummings' interpretation of the guidance is not shared by many others in my constituency, nor indeed across the country. I now have constituents questioning whether they can do X, Y or Z during lockdown, and asking how flexible the guidance is for individual implementation. This is not helpful in our ongoing battle in tackling the virus.

I feel that it is important that you are aware, Prime Minister, that the overwhelming sense of feeling locally is that Mr Cummings' actions have brought him into disrepute, and that he should resign.

I am awaiting all the facts before coming to a decision on whether he should or should not resign, but I very much hope that Mr Cummings is considering his position himself, and whether or not his continued role is a distraction from your efforts to deal with coronavirus, deliver on the opportunities of Brexit, and continue to level up the country.

I anticipate receiving many more emails over the rest of the Bank Holiday weekend on this matter, and will be sending a copy of this letter to those who get in touch with me.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Elliot Colburn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Elliot Colburn

Conservative Member of Parliament for Carshalton and Wallington