

Elliot Colburn MP

By email at: [elliot.colburn.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:elliot.colburn.mp@parliament.uk)

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17<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Elliot,

Thank you for your letter of 4th June, regarding racial disparities in the UK and the Black Lives Matter movement. Please accept my apologies for the delay in replying.

The government recognises the strength of feeling on the issue of racial disparities across the world and here in the UK, demonstrated by the Black Lives Matter movement. The government takes the issue of prejudice, racism and discrimination against any person or group of people seriously and we are committed to addressing all forms of discrimination wherever it occurs.

Key to this ambition is the work of the Commission on Race and Ethnic which is examining all aspects of continuing racial and ethnic disparities in Britain. The Commission aims to set out a new, positive agenda for change - balancing the needs of individuals, communities and society, maximising opportunities and ensuring fairness for all. The Commission is reviewing inequality in the UK, focusing on areas including education, employment, health and the criminal justice system and will look at outcomes for the whole population.

You will be assured to know that it has already held meetings with key delivery partners and agencies for these areas, evidence gathering sessions with a range of external stakeholders and influencers and launched an open Call for Evidence that ran until the end of November 2020.

We agree that the COVID-19 pandemic has accentuated inequalities in health outcomes in general, and PHE's reviews will serve as an important resource in ensuring that decisions around how these inequalities can be addressed are based on the best possible evidence.

As you may be aware, on 22 October I published my first quarterly report on progress to tackle the disparities in COVID risks and outcomes highlighted by the Public Health England review. My report made a number of recommendations, which the Prime Minister accepted in full, to protect those most at risk and particularly those from ethnic minority groups.



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We did not, however, simply wait for the data to emerge. My report summarises the unprecedented measures that Government departments and their agencies have, to date, put in place to mitigate the disparate health impacts of COVID-19. A full copy of the report can be found [here](#).

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kemi Badenoch".

**Kemi Badenoch MP**  
**Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury &**  
**Minister for Equalities**