

NEWSLETTER MAY 2020



SIR GRAHAM BRADY

Member of Parliament for Altrincham and Sale West



Speaking in the Commons

Dear all,

Welcome to May's Newsletter, it's been a busy month, during which the Prime Minister was advised not to see me alone (!) and I intervened in the Commons to try to save jobs at Manchester Airport.

The last week has seen a furore over the conduct of the Prime Minister's adviser Dominic Cummings, some of this has been whipped up by left-wing press and orchestrated by political opponents or those that disagree with some of our key policies.

However, there has also been real and understandable anger from many people, contacting me, who think they have seen double standards applied.

Since the start of the pandemic, I have been arguing for arbitrary rules to be replaced with good information and an appeal to the public to exercise judgment and common sense, but the Government's message has been blunt. This has meant an increasing number of people have suffered privations such as not seeing loved ones or being unable to say goodbye to close family who have passed away.

Dominic Cummings made a spur of the moment decision that he believed to be in the interests of his family. Without repeating the details, he said that he drove from London to Durham without stopping and stayed with his family in isolation until it was safe to return.

One interpretation is that he behaved in accordance with the rules but took advantage of the detailed exemptions to reflect his family's situation as he saw it. However, for many of us it appears that this was certainly not in keeping with the spirit of the Government's message.

I have received hundreds of messages from constituents, mostly from those who are angry that Mr Cummings has retained his job. As Chairman of the 1922 Committee I also receive the views of parliamentary colleagues on both sides of this contentious issue and I have had the opportunity to pass the views of constituents and colleagues to the Prime Minister in person. It is obviously a matter for him to choose his advisers.



Home Instead Senior Care

1st May I paid a visit to Home Instead Senior Care - it was a socially distanced visit and nice to do something 'normal' amid so many virtual meetings and webinars; for example, one with the US Ambassador, a weekly session with Conservative Peers; a weekly session with the '22 Executive, which is a hybrid session – people can attend virtually or in person. On 7th May I recorded a podcast with Christopher Hope from the Telegraph, here's the link: <https://www.tel3egraph.co.uk>

Following a speech in the Commons, I released the following to the press: Altrincham and Sale West MP Sir Graham Brady has intervened in the House of Commons in support of jobs at Manchester Airport.

He called on the Government to introduce a testing regime for air travellers rather than the 14-day quarantine period which has been suggested. A test-based approach is already in place elsewhere such as at Vienna Airport. He told the Commons:

'The news of the proposed 14-day quarantine period for returning passengers is a hammer blow for the industry and threatens many more hundreds of thousands of jobs. If it looks like more than a temporary and selective measure, the result will be devastation for the industry and for the many jobs that depend on it.'

Link to the Commons debate:

<https://www.theyworkforyou.com/debates/?id=2020-05-11b.50.0&s=speaker%3A10062#g77.0>

‘Last time I spoke on this subject in the House, I called on the Government to start moving away from an excessive dependence on arbitrary rules, and to recognise that the public have played an important role in the progress so far, by demonstrating responsibility and complying voluntarily. My key call was that we should take that as a reason to move towards trusting people more, and an expectation that we can rely more on common sense and people’s own sense of responsibility.’



I am therefore delighted to see the new change of emphasis and new messaging, which I think is an important move back towards trusting people and relying on the common sense and responsibility that we have seen so far. The revised guidance to start the process of getting people back to work is also welcome, although it has to be said that it is really a restatement of the original guidance. It has always been the Government’s position that work should continue, but that people should work at home where possible. It is important that we are seeing a shift, however, towards more encouragement to get people out to work and more freedom for people to engage in outdoor pursuits that are essentially safe. Angling, tennis, bowls and walks in the country will all bring hope and make people healthier in the future. As that happens, there is more responsibility for all of us—for employers to ensure that workplaces are as safe as they can be, for providers sensible precautions through handwashing, distancing and, where appropriate, face-covering.’

I told the House: ‘The aviation industry is a subject of enormous importance to my constituents, as we are so close to Manchester airport. That sector has been hit harder than any and is likely, because of its nature, to suffer pain and damage for longer than most other sectors. We have already seen thousands of jobs go in the aviation sector. The news of the proposed 14-day quarantine period for returning passengers is a hammer blow for the industry and threatens many more hundreds of thousands of jobs.’



Speaking later I said: 'We should all take the *necessary* precautions, but quarantine should only be considered where there is scientific or medical justification such as travel from high risk countries: Manchester Airport is an important employer locally and a crucial driver of the whole NW economy. The introduction of draconian measures not supported by the science would destroy jobs and businesses at a time when we need to rebuild opportunities. I want Ministers to rethink these proposals.'

I also submitted a written question to the Secretary of State for Transport:

Question:

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, on what scientific or medical advice he based the decision to include passengers arriving from countries which have the same or lower levels of covid-19 infection as the UK in the 14-day quarantine policy. (44981)

Tabled on: 11 May 2020

Answer:

Kelly Tolhurst:

The Home Office will be introducing new health protection measures at the border, and details will be published soon. Further queries should be directed to the Home Office.

The answer was submitted on 19 May 2020 at 17:39.

I was unimpressed with the answer!

<https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/ynbAC3QL5hvDrgOSqya90?domain=theyworkforyou.com>

Here are some of this month's appearances in the press

'Don't meet Sir Graham Brady' The memo from Boris's Political Secretary is an insight into the attitude of advisers, who seek to be the sole source of information and advice - the latest news about Dominic Cummings would seem to bear this out

[Don't meet backbench leader Sir Graham Brady alone, Boris Johnson told in memo slip](#)

The Times

Don't meet backbench leader Sir **Graham Brady** alone, Boris Johnson told in memo slip. Lucy Fisher. Thursday May 14, 2020, 12.01am BST, The ...



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[Shouldn't he have known better? Boris ignores framed No10 warning and fails to cover up a memo ...](#)

Daily Mail

The PM was photographed carrying the private message about 1922 committee chief Sir **Graham Brady** as he went in to Downing Street yesterday.



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[Lindsay Hoyle and Jacob Rees-Mogg clash over whether House of Commons should return to ...](#)

Telegraph.co.uk

On Friday 15th May we made history when I chaired the first ever 'virtual' meeting of the 1922 Committee with the Prime Minister.

... were hammered out at a meeting between Mr Johnson and Sir **Graham Brady**, the 1922 chairman, shortly after PMQs on Wednesday lunchtime.

That's all from me, I'll be back with more news next month, with all good wishes to you and your family.

Sir Graham Brady MP