



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**

**LONDON SW1A 0AA**

6th April 2020

Dear Sirs,

I am contacting you on behalf of the Members of Parliament below, representing the population of Kent, who we all serve.

We are grateful to you for the diligent approach you take in ensuring justice is administered appropriately in this county. The contribution you make to the justice system is such that people can have confidence that we have a fair and robust approach in our local courts and we pay tribute to you for this.

This letter is an unprecedented approach to Kent's judiciary by its Members of Parliament during unprecedented times. There is a separation of powers that rightly exists in this country, yet it is also right we express our constituents' views.

We believe that any person, convicted in Kent's Courts of coughing or spitting at or in any other way threatening an emergency worker by using coronavirus, should expect an immediate term of imprisonment.

Assaulting an emergency worker by coughing or spitting at them is a despicable act at any time. Carrying out such an act at this time is particularly repugnant.

Sadly, Kent Police has experienced a number of incidents this week where their officers have been coughed and spat at by people claiming to have the virus. I am sure you will agree that our emergency workers deserve protection from this.

There should be no doubt in any person's mind that if they deliberately spit at or cough at an emergency worker in this county, then an immediate term of imprisonment will follow.

Judicial decisions must always rest with the judiciary but we feel compelled to make you aware of the strength of feeling held by us and our constituents at this time.

Yours faithfully,

**Gareth Johnson**

**Craig Mackinlay**

**Damian Collins**

**Tracey Crouch**

**Kelly Tollhurst**

**Laura Trott**

**Cont.**

**Helen Grant**

**Rehman Chishti**

**Damian Green**

**Natalie Elphicke**

**Greg Clarke**

**Adam Holloway**

**Tom Tugendhat**

**Gordon Henderson**

**Sir Roger Gale**

**Rosie Duffield**