

HUW MERRIMAN MP
(Bexhill and Battle)



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Priti Patel MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department
Home Office
Direct Communications Unit
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Our Ref: HM17466

10 August 2020

Dear Priti,

Illegal Migrants Landing on Sussex Beaches

I have received a considerable amount of correspondence from my constituents who are concerned about the high number of illegal immigrants currently making the dangerous Channel crossing to England and arriving on beaches within my constituency of Bexhill and Battle as well as beaches along the East Sussex and Kent coast.

I am particularly concerned that allowing this situation to continue is not only putting vulnerable lives at risk, it is also impacting our local communities and services and each successful journey simply gives further encouragement to unscrupulous people traffickers who are making a living from exploiting desperate people.

I would be grateful for your comments on what more can be done to tackle this growing problem. I should also appreciate further information on what procedures are in place to establish the country of origin of these migrants, their right to asylum and what action is being taken to return those who are not granted asylum.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Huw'.

Huw Merriman
Member of Parliament for Bexhill and Battle