



Department for
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To – All Council Leaders/Chief Executives

Dear Colleagues,

The establishment of illegal and unauthorised campsites can be a general nuisance and problematic for both public and private landowners. Many of you will have observed an increase in illegal and unauthorised campsites around bank holidays, a time when local officials are on an extended break. Ahead of this summer's August bank holiday it is timely to be advised of the powers available to your officials. Attached is the latest version of *Dealing with illegal and unauthorised encampments: a summary of available powers*. The document, which includes the recent amendment to Temporary Stop Notices. A version of this document can be found online here - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/councils-can-quickly-stop-illegal-encampments>.

The latest version of the document now reflects removal of the previous Administration's restrictions on the use of Temporary Stop Notices against caravans used as a main residence. This gives planning authorities the freedom, backed up by potentially heavy fines, to nip unauthorised sites in the bud, which will reduce the costs associated with protracted enforcement proceedings and help to safeguard valuable local landscapes and environments, including the Green Belt.

I hope there is little need to use these powers, but when they are required officials can, with confidence, take action in a swift and decisive action against the small minority of travellers who choose to ignore planning rules and fuel community tensions by setting up unauthorised sites.

BRANDON LEWIS MP