

NICKIE AIKEN MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Nadhim Zahawi MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

23rd April 2020

Dear Minister,

Construction During COVID-19

As the COVID-19 lockdown continues into its fifth week and with no definite date set for its lifting, my constituency mailbag is seeing an increase in correspondence from constituents very concerned about ongoing construction and roadworks. I appreciate that it is essential that we keep those parts of our economy open and working. However, these works, particularly roadworks, are having a detrimental effect on resident amenity and on their mental health.

Areas like the City of London, Pimlico and Soho, but not exclusive to these areas, are witnessing ongoing construction and roadworks, often six days a week. The noise and vibrations particularly are taking their toll. With the weather improving and households opening their windows during the day, coupled with the fact that people are having to stay indoors for the majority of, if not all, the day, the stress caused by these works is increasing tensions within families and ultimately the mental health and wellbeing of my constituents.

I have taken up the issue with both local authorities in my constituency, Westminster City Council and the Corporation of London, but both inform me that there is nothing that can be done without Government intervention. Many residents have raised concerns about the ability of workers to adhere to social distancing guidelines while involved in such work. Both the local authorities confirm that they are communicating with the firms involved to ensure guidelines are met.

I would be grateful for your consideration as to whether the Government would publish guidance to local authorities advising that, where appropriate, the hours of such construction and roadworks are reduced, that there is no work at weekends and that, wherever possible, noisy work and vibration free days are introduced during the week. That, I believe, would go some way to mitigating the issues I have raised.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Aiken', written in a cursive style.

Nickie Aiken MP
Cities of London and Westminster

Office of Nickie Aiken MP

nickie.aiken.mp@parliament.uk

Tel: 0207 219 4553

www.nickieaiken.org.uk