

NICK THOMAS-SYMONDS MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Priti Patel MP  
Secretary of State for the Home Department  
Home Office  
[By Email]

23 April 2020

Dear Priti,

I write regarding the very concerning news that not all solicitors and police station accredited representatives have access to facilities that allow them to continue to provide services to clients at police stations safely.

I understand that some police stations do have the facilities to allow telephone access to clients, electronic access to pre-interview disclosure, and remote participation in interviews.

However, this is far from being a universal position, and I have also been informed of the very sad news that a solicitor and an accredited police station representative have lost their lives from Covid-19.

This is a pressing situation and I would be grateful for you working to ensure that facilities allowing safe working are made available at police stations across the country.

I am providing a copy of this letter to the London Criminal Courts Solicitors' Association and the Criminal Law Solicitors' Association.

I look forward to your urgent response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Thomas-Symonds".

Nick Thomas-Symonds MP  
Shadow Home Secretary

Cc: Shadow Secretary of State for Justice, Rt Hon David Lammy MP  
Shadow Minister for Legal Aid, Karl Turner MP  
Shadow Minister for Policing and the Fire Service, Sarah Jones MP

*Please reply to:-*

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