

From: [HRS Covid19](#)
To: [HRS Covid19](#)
Subject: A message from Dame Louise Casey to Local Authority homelessness managers and rough sleeping coordinators
Date: 26 March 2020 16:38:08

26 March

A message from Dame Louise Casey to Local Authority homelessness managers and rough sleeping coordinators:

Re: 'Everyone In'

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a great thank you on behalf of the Prime Minister, Secretary of State and colleagues across the Government and local government for your continued work in response to the COVID-19 crisis. I know that this is a particularly challenging time and I am sure that you are already going above and beyond to support rough sleepers and those most in need in your area – thank you. As you know, this is a public health emergency. We are all redoubling our efforts to do what we possibly can at this stage to ensure that everybody is inside and safe by this weekend, and we stand with you in this. We are approaching this work clearly focused on getting everyone an offer of somewhere they can stay safely and, if need be, self-isolate. Many of you are way ahead in delivering this locally and I've been blown away by how, as ever, local government colleagues always, always rise to these extraordinary challenges.

These are unusual times so I'm asking for an unusual effort. Many areas of the country have already been able to 'safe harbour' their people which is incredible. What we need to do now though is work out how we can get 'everyone in'.

I know from experience and from your conversations with MHCLG advisers that there are challenges unique to each area that we need overcome in this effort, and indeed these challenges must be balanced with meeting the needs of your own families, friends and colleagues. I want to assure you that our advisers stand alongside you with support and advice so that, together as central and local government working in partnership with the sector, we can ensure that everybody can have an offer of accommodation by this weekend. I have asked the MHCLG team to put together a sit rep by close of play tomorrow so we can see what more we need to do.

During the course of today and tomorrow, the MHCLG rough sleeping or homelessness advisers will be in touch to understand with you how many individuals have been helped, how many still need our help, and how we can best support you in making sure that everyone gets inside.

It's important for the welfare of both homeless people and staff or volunteers that all communal night-shelters and any street encampments are closed down for the time being. These communal settings, as you will be aware, are high risk for spreading coronavirus.

We know that this is not a perfect system, and in time we can take stock and work together to consider how best to continue this support for rough sleepers, but for now the priority is to ensure that everyone, all individuals across the country, have an offer to come inside.

Thank you for your efforts so far. Together, we can give everyone the offer of a safe, secure accommodation to help them deal with this virus as best they and we can.

In the meantime - keep safe and I wish you all only the best.

Louise