



Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA



5 August 2021

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to express my frustration and concern about the process of assigning the traffic light system for international travel. The process over the summer has been haphazard with late papers and last minute changes. This reached a new low point yesterday when Covid-O met to decide the traffic light risk allocations and the other governments within the UK were not invited. This is obviously very disappointing, particularly given your commitments following the Heads of Government summit in June regarding more effective intergovernmental collaboration across the UK.

Here, I provide just one example of the points we would have raised had we been part of the discussions. Spain has reported cases of B.1.621, recording the highest number in Europe. I understand that arrivals from Spain, and all its islands will be advised to use a PCR test as their pre-departure test wherever possible. Had we been at the meeting, we would undoubtedly have argued for processes to be in place to ensure those travelling into the UK from Spain are subject to consistent and robust PCR surveillance - including PCR pre-departure tests, as one mitigation against importing vaccine escape variants.

I am copying this letter to my counterparts in the Scottish Government and the Northern Ireland Executive as well as to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, the Secretary of State for Wales and the Head of UK Governance Group.

Yours sincerely

MARK DRAKEFORD

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Mark.Drakeford@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Mark.Drakeford@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.