



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

**Department for Levelling Up,
Housing and Communities**

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By Email Only

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Dear Local Planning Authority Colleagues,

I am writing to you all in light of the recent shortages of fuel available at some petrol stations.

For some petrol stations, planning conditions may have been imposed limiting night-time deliveries to protect the amenity of local residents. Enforcement of these conditions is at the discretion of local planning authorities.

In response to the general HGV driver shortage, a Written Ministerial Statement was made on 15 July 2021 making it clear that local planning authorities should take a positive approach to their engagement with retailers of essential goods and the freight industry to ensure planning controls are not a barrier to deliveries of essential goods, whilst having due regard to their legal obligations.

I am writing to confirm that “essential goods” includes fuel and this statement, which expires on 31 January 2022, covers petrol stations.

A full copy of the statement can be found here:

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2021-07-15/hcws187>

I wanted to write to highlight this statement to Local Planning Authorities and make it clear that the Department does not expect the enforcement of planning conditions to unnecessarily impede the delivery of essential goods, including fuel.

Yours faithfully,

**Joanna Averley
Chief Planner**