



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Edward Mountain MSP
Member of the Scottish Parliament for the Highlands and Islands Region

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for getting in touch with me regarding Dominic Cummings.

I would like to say at the outset that I fully understand your frustration at what has happened and I share it. It is clear that when you are tackling an emergency, that you must focus totally at the job in hand and Dominic Cummings has become a distraction, which is truly unwelcome.

I am sure that you will understand that Dominic Cummings is employed by our Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, and therefore the ultimate decision on who he employs rests with him.

During the last twelve months the United Kingdom has faced the biggest threat to our survival since the Second World War. We have joined together to fight the pandemic and in doing so we have all accepted rules and regulations that 'go against' the very freedoms that we all cherish. There is no doubt that we all have to abide by the same restrictions and in the most part we have done so voluntarily and without complaint.

What is also clear is that some have had to suffer considerably more hardships and pain than others. For example, I find it difficult to comprehend the pain of those who only heard by telephone of their loved ones dying and when loved ones were buried the fact not all the family could attend. And whilst I have absolute admiration for all those who have worked in our hospitals under difficult conditions, I cannot fully comprehend what they have been through. I will however be eternally grateful for their dedication and sacrifice.

Turning specifically to Dominic Cummings I have listened to all he has said and, whilst I can understand the wish of a parent to protect their family, I believe he has made a series of poor decisions. It is however very clear that he is now deflecting our attention from dealing with the current crisis, this is deeply unhelpful. To that end I think he should reflect whether it is right for him to be the news when our focus should be on how we are dealing with this pandemic.

I would like to assure you, that as an MSP for the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party, I will remain focused on dealing with the pandemic and holding the Scottish Government to account in the Scottish Parliament. I do hope that we can continue during this Covid crisis to seek ways of working together rather than finding ways of driving ourselves apart.

With kind regards,

Best wishes,

Edward Mountain MSP
Representing the Highlands and Islands