



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA  
[www.gov.uk/number10](http://www.gov.uk/number10)

Head of the Direct Communications Unit

9 May 2022

Dear Sir George

Thank you for your email of 4 April to the Prime Minister, on behalf of a number of your constituents. The Prime Minister has asked me to reply on his behalf.

I completely understand your constituents' sadness and frustration at the news of police fines following the investigation into Downing Street gatherings during the COVID-19 lockdown. The Prime Minister has taken full responsibility, acknowledged people's anger and hurt, and offered a full and unreserved apology. Although it did not occur to him, then or subsequently, that a small work-related gathering could amount to a breach of the rules, the Prime Minister accepts this was a mistake, adding:

*"I respect the outcome of the police investigation, which is still underway, and I can only say that I will respect their decision-making and always take the appropriate steps, and I have already taken significant steps to change the way things work in No10. And it is precisely because I know that so many people are angry and disappointed, that I feel an even greater sense of obligation to deliver on the priorities of the British people, and to respond in the best traditions of our country to Putin's barbaric onslaught against Ukraine."*

In regard to fixed penalty notices, the Metropolitan Police has said: *"Identities of people dealt with by cautions, speeding fines and other fixed penalties – out-of-court disposals – should not be released or confirmed. We will not confirm the number of referrals from each individual event subject to our investigation as providing a breakdown at this point may lead to identification of the individuals."*

I would be grateful if you could share this reply with your constituents and thank you once again for writing to the Prime Minister about this matter. I can assure you that protecting the public from COVID-19 has been, and continues to be, of utmost importance to the Government.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mandy Godridge', written in a cursive style.

**MANDY GODRIDGE**

The Right Honourable Sir George Howarth MP