



Russell Hamblin-Boone  
Chief Executive Officer, CIVEA

*By email*

**MoJ ref:** ADR83506/84159

20 January 2021

Dear Russell,

### **TAKING CONTROL OF GOODS**

Thank you for your letters of 6 November and 15 December regarding the guidance on enforcement activity in England and Wales. I apologise for the delay in responding.

I am sorry to hear of the difficulties experienced by your members during the national lockdown in Wales between 23 October and 8 November. Protecting public health is of utmost concern to the Government and my officials have worked closely with their counterparts in Wales to ensure that our approach supports the aims of the public health measures in place in Wales, where health is devolved. However, I appreciate your concerns and would like to reassure you that I understand the importance of ensuring the Government's approach to enforcement in England and Wales is applied consistently.

Further to my previous correspondence on this matter, I am writing to request your ongoing understanding and support regarding guidance to your members on enforcement activity at homes during this time. In addition to the importance of your members adhering to the Government's Covid-secure guidance for those using the taking control of goods process, I am writing to clarify that the Ministry of Justice continues to advise that you inform your members that they should not enter residential properties in England and Wales for the purpose of enforcement by taking control of goods at this time. The Ministry of Justice is keeping this advice under review in line with the wider restrictions in place.

I am grateful for all the work that the sector has undertaken in order to ensure that enforcement agents operate safely. I would like to express my thanks for CIVEA's continued engagement with my officials and assistance in monitoring the resumption of activity since August.

I am writing to the HCEOA and the Certificated Enforcement Agents Association in similar terms.

Yours sincerely,

**RT HON ROBERT BUCKLAND QC MP**