



Ministry  
of Justice

The Right Honourable  
**Robert Buckland QC MP**  
Lord Chancellor & Secretary of  
State for Justice

**Tracey Stone**

Certificated Enforcement Agents Association  
*By email*

MoJ Ref: 83297

16 November 2020

Dear Tracey,

**THE PUBLIC HEALTH (CORONAVIRUS) (PROTECTION FROM EVICTION AND TAKING CONTROL OF GOODS) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2020**

I am writing to inform you that the Government will be laying a Statutory Instrument (SI) before Parliament today, to enter into force tomorrow. This SI builds on the Government's previous guidance on enforcement activity during the national lockdown introduced by the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions) (England) (No.4) Regulations 2020 ("the national health protection regulations").

The Government recognises the importance of enforcement as an essential part of the administration of justice. However, in light of the extraordinary circumstances engendered by the coronavirus pandemic, the Government has a duty to take such measures as are necessary to protect public health during a time when there is a high risk of virus transmission. The Public Health (Coronavirus) (Protection from Eviction and Taking Control of Goods) (England) Regulations 2020 therefore prohibit enforcement agents from taking control of goods inside residential properties during the period when the national health protection regulations are in force. This builds on my previous written request to your members.

This measure does not prevent enforcement agents from taking other steps to enforce debts under the taking control of goods procedure, including: making contact by remote means such as telephone; visiting but not entering properties; taking control of goods located outside the home or on the highway; and enforcement at business premises. The Government believes that such steps may be safely undertaken in line with the Government's published COVID-secure guidance for those using the taking control of goods procedure.

As you will appreciate, this is a rapidly changing situation and we will continue to keep our approach under review in order to ensure it remains responsive and proportionate.

I am grateful for the continued support and cooperation that the CEAA has shown in these matters to date.

Yours sincerely

**RT HON ROBERT BUCKLAND QC MP**