



Department  
for Transport

Livanios Stylianos  
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Hellenic Republic  
Municipality of Serifos  
Cyclades South Aegean

From the Parliamentary  
Under Secretary of State  
**Robert Courts MP**

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Dear Livanios,

Thank you for your letter of 8 September to Grant Shapps, regarding the removal of Serifos island from the travel corridor list of quarantine exempt regions. I am replying as the Minister for aviation.

May I begin by emphasising that it is vitally important that we manage the risk of a second wave of coronavirus and keep the number of cases of Covid-19 in the UK as low as possible. Our approach has had to balance the risks of imported Covid-19 cases whilst also supporting the travel and tourism sector which has been severely impacted by the pandemic crisis. To support these objectives, we have been guided by the science and worked closely with health and policy experts from across Government.

The Joint Biosecurity Centre, in close consultation with Public Health England (PHE) and the Chief Medical Officer, has developed an approach to assessing the public health risk associated with inbound travel from specific countries and territories.

Under the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984, health protection regulations for international travel came into force in all parts of the UK on 8 June 2020. These regulations required people who arrive in the UK from outside the common travel area to self-isolate for 14 days and to complete a passenger locator form. There were a number of exemptions, including those travelling from Ireland or other parts of the common travel area. These regulations have helped to reduce the risk of importing cases into the UK.

However, the Government has kept these measures under review to ensure that they remain fit for purpose and as you know, on 3 July we announced significant exemptions for certain categories of passengers and also for lower risk countries and territories.

Since 10 July 2020, passengers arriving from a number of exempt countries and territories are no longer required to self-isolate on arrival in England unless they have visited or transited through any non-exempt country or territory in the preceding 14 days. On 9 September, Serifos along with six other islands, was removed from the exemptions list, meaning that all people arriving in England must self-isolate for 14 days on arrival.

We will keep the conditions in all countries and territories under review. If they change or worsen, we will not hesitate to amend or reintroduce self-isolation requirements. We are advising British nationals currently in Greece and its islands that they may continue with their trip, and should continue to adhere the rules and advice of local authorities including on social distancing and practising good hygiene.

Greece is an important friend and partner which has welcomed British tourists over many years. We want to see a return to normal international travel with Greece and its islands, but this can only happen where we are certain that that travel is safe and the risks of importing infections are minimised. The Government has been clear that where there is a sustained improvement in a country's health situation we will reinstate exemptions or add new ones.

I hope this is helpful and clarifies why the decision was taken.

Yours sincerely,



**ROBERT COURTS MP**

**MINISTER FOR AVIATION, MARITIME AND SECURITY**