



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Richard Corbett

Labour Member of the European Parliament for Yorkshire & Humber

Rt Hon Boris Johnson
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

15 November 2019

Dear Prime Minister,

As you are well aware, over the past week, more than a thousand properties, including homes, schools and businesses, were evacuated due to flooding in Yorkshire and elsewhere in the UK. More are likely to be affected in the coming days, with 60 flood warnings and 138 flood alerts remaining on the government website.

I am writing to you today, on behalf of all Labour MEPs from the affected regions, to urge you, in your capacity as Prime Minister, to apply for assistance from the European Union Solidarity Fund.

While we are still members of the EU, we are entitled to benefit from this solidarity mechanism (to which we have contributed) which exists to respond to major natural disasters within Europe. The government should be aware of its existence, as Labour MEPs also urged the government to apply for such funding in 2015 after the North West was hit by Storm Desmond, which it did belatedly.

However, we urge you this time not to wait until the 11th hour to seek help from our friends and partners in Europe.

The European Union Solidarity Fund can be seen as an insurance mechanism. It has helped countries and regions across Europe. This year alone, the fund has supported communities in Austria, Italy and Romania.

If the government should decide to take action, Labour MEPs would be more than happy to provide advice on the process and application to ensure that communities get the full support they are entitled to during this time.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Corbett MEP
Leader, Labour MEPs