



Department for Communities and Local Government

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The Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP
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Dear Farooq,

Thank you for your letter of 22 July. Further to my letter of 19 July to Muslim organisations, which outlined what we are doing to prevent and address anti-Muslim hatred, I thought it might be useful if I outlined some of the things this government has done since these terrible events, and also things we are doing in the longer term:

- Baroness Warsi made an immediate statement following the explosion in Tipton, as did James Brokenshire, Minister for Security at the Home Office, condemning the attacks. At that stage, evidence had not yet emerged to connect the Tipton incident to the earlier attack in Walsall or to the murder of Mohammed Saleem. An individual has since been charged for these attacks and it would therefore be inappropriate to comment further on the details of that case.
- Following the discovery of a device at Wolverhampton, I made a statement praising the calm and measured response of people in the West Midlands. My Ministerial colleagues and I publicly condemned these attacks and highlighted our support for the police in responding to them. My letter of 19 July received coverage in national press and was published online by several mosques. I also intend to publish this letter online.
- In the West Midlands, specialist advisers gave dedicated security advice to mosques, Islamic schools and community centres, visiting all 216 mosques and Muslim centres in the area. Extra police patrols were put in place where necessary. Where appropriate, similar steps were taken by the police in other areas of the country.
- Tell MAMA, a project which my Department has funded, developed security advice for mosques.
- Baroness Warsi called a meeting of the independent members of the anti-Muslim hatred working group immediately following the Tipton attack, to hear how Muslim communities were responding to this and other incidents, and what more Government could do.

- A large part of our work in the Department for Communities and Local Government is centred on tackling anti-Muslim hatred and countering the narrative that being British and Muslim is not compatible. Earlier this month we funded the first ever Srebrenica Memorial Day event to commemorate the genocide and to highlight and warn of the consequences of when religious hate crime and intolerance goes unchallenged.
- This Ramadan we have supported The Big Iftar, a series of multi-faith iftars designed to open up mosques and community centres to the wider public, dispelling some of the myths about Islam and strengthening communities.
- With the centenary of the First World War approaching, we are looking at ways that the role Commonwealth soldiers, including the many thousands of Muslims who fought for Britain, can be highlighted and commemorated.

I hope this reassures you of our commitment to preventing and addressing hatred and extremism and hope you will communicate these assurances to your affiliates.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eric Pickles".

RT HON ERIC PICKLES MP