



Regulation of school managers and governors: prohibition direction

Name: Tahir Alam

Former position: Chair of Park View Education Trust (PVET)

Prescribed grounds on which the direction has been issued:

Under section 128 of the Education and Skills Act 2008, the “appropriate authority” (Secretary of State) may give a direction prohibiting a person from taking part in the management of an independent school on prescribed grounds connected with the person’s suitability. The grounds on which a person may be prohibited are prescribed in the Independent Educational Provision (Prohibition from Participation in Management) Regulations 2014.

A direction was given in respect of Tahir Alam on 3 September 2015. The Secretary of State found that Tahir Alam had engaged in:

- **Conduct which is aimed at undermining fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs**
- **Conduct that is so inappropriate that, in the opinion of the appropriate authority, it makes a person unsuitable to take part in the management of independent schools,**

and that because of that conduct he was unsuitable to take part in the management of an independent school (including an academy or Free School). The barring decision also has the effect of disqualifying the person from being a governor at a maintained school.

Summary

Mr Alam was found to be a central figure during Peter Clarke’s investigation (April-July 2014) into allegations arising from a document popularly known as the ‘Trojan Horse letter’. The Clarke Report also found that Mr Alam was the key person determining the policies and activities at PVET, in his role as Chair of the Trust and therefore was ultimately responsible for the activities that took place. These activities included: inappropriate interference in the day-to-day running of schools; inviting extremist/controversial speakers to address pupils; promoting intolerance; the narrowing of curricula in non-faith schools to make them conform with conservative religious teachings, including the use of unacceptable teaching materials; inappropriate recruitment practices and financial mismanagement.