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Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
Department for Communities and Local
Government
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

21st February 2017

Dear Secretary of State,

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS: FINAL PROGRESS REPORT AND LOCAL OVERSIGHT ARRANGEMENTS 2017 – 18

I write to you regarding the Directions for Tower Hamlets and my thoughts on the matter. The Commissioners' role in Tower Hamlets has provided direction, challenge and scrutiny enabling all Elected Members and Group Leaders to further shape the Council so it best serves the interests of all our residents. However the Commissioners carried a significant cost to the Council, both financial and of time.

To the credit of Elected Members and council staff, all have played a pivotal role in implementing the Directions issued by the Secretary of State. As the Cabinet Member for Housing under the previous Mayor I have observed that the Council has learnt lessons from the previous administration and made progress without undermining past achievements. This has laid solid foundations for the departure of the Commissioners.

I am however concerned that Tower Hamlets has a growing young population at risk of many social and economic factors. I am enormously proud that successive administrations have been able to rise to the challenge to ensure that children can aspire and reach their full potential. The previous two Ofsted Inspections gave Children's Services Good with Outstanding features.



2007 - 2008
School Improvement
2003 - 2007
Winner of 5 previous
Beacon Awards



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Whilst I am keen for the Commissioners to depart I think given we have had a recent Ofsted Inspection it would be advisable to understand the Inspector's provisional assessment and for you to consider this in your deliberations if you are minded to end Directions on 31st March

In addition I believe all Elected Members across the political spectrum in Tower Hamlets would welcome a visit from you to see for yourself the progress Tower Hamlets has made and to reassure our residents that the government will continue to ensure the Council works in their best interests.

Yours sincerely,



Cllr Rabina Khan
Group Leader, People's Alliance of Tower Hamlets