



Department for
Communities and
Local Government



The Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP
*Secretary of State for Communities and Local
Government*

**Department for Communities and Local
Government**
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David Delew
Chief Executive, Community Security Trust

Leaders of Local Authorities

Dear Colleagues,

Offensive and detrimental material

As many of you will be aware, this past summer saw a sharp increase in the number of antisemitic incidents that targeted Britain's Jewish community. The Community Security Trust (CST), an organisation that monitors levels of UK based antisemitism, recorded 302 incidents in July alone. To put this into context, CST recorded 304 incidents in total during the first six months of 2014.

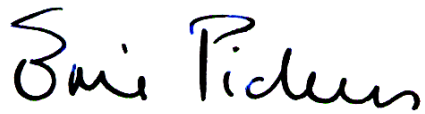
We must all continue to stand unified against all forms of hatred be it antisemitism, anti-Muslim hatred, racism or homophobia, whatever its manifestation, whether it is expressed on social media, as a physical attack, as a verbal threat, or in any other manner.

A particularly pernicious expression of antisemitism and other forms of hatred is the daubing of slogans or symbols, via graffiti or the fixing of stickers and posters, onto both public and private property. In these instances, a visible display of hate can increase tensions between communities, as well as providing a physical reminder to the victim of the abuse they have suffered.

We would like to remind you that under sections 48, 49, 50 and 52 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 (as amended) local authorities have the powers to swiftly remove any physical sign of hatred on any property in order to minimise the risk of increased tensions. The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) have issued guidance <http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/local/legislation/cnea/documents/defacement.pdf>.

It is also incumbent upon local councils that instances of antisemitic and racist daubings are recorded and reported to the police. In these cases it is important to liaise quickly and closely with the police before removing the daubing, and any materials used, to ensure that evidence is not destroyed and that photographs can be taken.

Hate crime can be reported to the police through normal channels, or through the True Vision website (www.report-it.org.uk). To report antisemitism to the CST call 0208 457 9999 or via their website (www.cst.org.uk).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Pickles". The letters are cursive and fluid.

The Rt Hon Eric Pickles

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David S. Delew". The signature is highly stylized and cursive.

David S. Delew