

Terms of Reference – Independent Antisemitism Adviser

Purpose of the Review

- Antisemitism in the UK continues to be a cause for concern. The most recent national hate crime statistics published by the Home Office (October 2019) showed that Jewish people were, per capita, the most likely group to experience religiously motivated hate crime.
- The report of the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Antisemitism (February 2015) produced 34 recommendations for tackling antisemitism in the UK. The final report on the implementation of the Inquiry (April 2018, two-years ahead of the self-imposed deadline of 2020) noted that ‘following this report, unprecedented progress has been achieved by successive Governments’.

Aims

- To provide independent advice to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (hereby known as the Secretary of State) on issues relating to antisemitism in the UK, and the most effective methods to combat it.
- To engage proactively with the Jewish community and institutions, acting as a key point of contact between these organisations and Government on antisemitism in the UK.
- To provide an independent annual report to Government on antisemitism in the UK including advice on how to tackle it.
- To collaborate with the UK’s Special Envoy for Post-Holocaust Issues and the UK’s Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion and Belief to ensure a cohesive approach. International engagement on antisemitism will continue to be led by the UK’s Special Envoy for Post-Holocaust Issues.

Membership

- The Independent Adviser will be appointed by the Prime Minister. There will be no remuneration from Government.

Accountability

- The Independent Adviser will make recommendations to the Secretary of State.
- The Independent Adviser will present an annual report to the Secretary of State.
- The Adviser does not speak on behalf of the Secretary of State or the Government unless otherwise agreed with the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State continues to hold the Government’s relationship with all relevant stakeholders.

Timing

- The role will be for five years and subject to review in 2024 (with the ability to end the relationship in exceptional circumstances, such as if the adviser does not abide by the Nolan principles).

Meetings

- The Independent Adviser will be expected to hold quarterly meetings with the Secretary of State to update on progress and provide advice. Further meetings may be required and will be appropriately scheduled.
- The role of the Independent Adviser is focussed on tackling antisemitism in the UK. Bilateral contact with similar advisers in other countries will be possible where necessary for the purpose of tackling antisemitism in the UK.

Support

- The Independent Adviser will be supported by a Secretariat, provided via the Antisemitism Policy Trust.
- MHCLG will make an annual grant payment to the Antisemitism Policy Trust of £100,000 per annum for five years (up to March 2024). This will be to support the Secretariat and cover reasonable travel and subsistence expenses. The first payment of which (up to March 2020) shall be £50,000.
- The Independent Adviser will have a named point of contact at MHCLG for the duration of the appointment. Beyond this, Civil Service support will not be provided, with the exception of simple cross Whitehall co-ordination.