



Department
for Education

Regulation of school managers and governors: prohibition direction

Name: Zafar Ali

Former position: Chair of Governors, Iqra Slough Islamic Primary School

Prescribed grounds on which the direction has been issued:

Under section 128 of the Education and Skills Act 2008, the “appropriate authority” (in this case the 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 Education Provision in England (Prohibition from Participation in Management) Regulations 2014.

A direction was given in respect of Zafar Ali on 24 September 2026. The Secretary of State found that Zafar Ali had:

- engaged in relevant conduct

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 Ali engaged in relevant conduct, confirmed by the findings of an independent investigation.

The relevant conduct included harassment, abuse of power within role, emotional manipulation, breaches in confidentiality and referring to staff members using a derogatory term.

In the opinion of the Secretary of State, this relevant conduct makes Mr Ali unsuitable to take part in the management of an independent school.