



Home Office

Rt Hon Chris Philp MP
Minister of State for Crime, Policing
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Jim Shannon MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

11 March 2024

Dear Jim,

Tacking Antisemitism – Safety of Communities

During the Oral Statement on Antisemitism in the United Kingdom in the House of Commons on Monday 19 February, you asked whether discussions had taken place with the Devolved Administrations – and with the Northern Ireland Assembly in particular – regarding funding to support those who feel unsafe in their communities amid the current protests.

The Government is clear that everyone in the UK has the right to feel safe and at ease in the place where they live. Equally, everyone has the right to protest peacefully, but this cannot come at the expense of others safety and security. Whilst the right to gather lawfully and demonstrate a point of view is a basic democratic right, rights to lawful protest do not extend to activities that incite hatred or harass others through threatening or abusive behaviour. In England and Wales, the police have comprehensive powers to deal with unlawful activities of this kind, and as you are undoubtedly aware, legislation relating to protests is a devolved matter in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Similarly, tackling hate crime is a devolved matter in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Accordingly, should the Devolved Administrations wish to implement programmes to tackle hate crime, these would need to be funded by the Devolved Administration in question.

However, please note that the Home Office provides protective security measures for Jewish and Muslim communities across the whole of the UK through the Jewish Community Protective Security (JCPS) Grant, the Protective Security for Mosques Scheme and a further scheme for Muslim faith schools. The JCPS Grant provides protective security measures (such as guarding, CCTV and alarm systems) at Jewish schools, colleges, nurseries;

many synagogues; and some other Jewish community sites. The Grant is managed on behalf of the Home Office by the Community Security Trust.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the library.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Philp', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rt Hon Chris Philp MP
Minister of State for Crime, Policing and Fire