



Home Office

Home Secretary

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[www.gov.uk/home-office](http://www.gov.uk/home-office)

29 April 2019

Dear Colleague,

### Places of Worship - Protective Security Funding

I am writing to all Parliamentary colleagues following my letter of 19 March where I shared guidance on ways of showing practical support for Muslims and other faith communities after the horrific events in New Zealand. The terrorist attacks over the Easter weekend in Sri Lanka are a shocking reminder of the threat to freedom of religion.

The police and their partners are doing everything they can to ensure the safety of the public, particularly around religious festivals, and holy days. This will include operational policing plans for the upcoming Ramadan period. To British Muslims observing Ramadan I realise there are particular anxieties about their safety and security.

I am committed to working with faith groups and engaging them on existing measures that fund and protect all places of worship. We will be consulting with groups across all faiths, to review what more can and should be done to protect faith institutions. We will be outlining how to engage on Gov.UK shortly. I will be listening closely and stand ready to do what is needed.

In the meantime, I have already announced an uplift of funding for the next year of the Places of Worship Protective Security Fund to £1.6 million. This is double the amount awarded last year and is open to all places of worship (except synagogues who are supported through a separate scheme). The fund will be open from July and will provide financial support to places of worship for the purchase of physical protective security measures such as fencing, lighting and access control. Responding to feedback from faith representatives, we will make it easier for places of worship to apply. Instead of applicants having to find their own quotes for the security measures they want, those applying from July will benefit from having a central-provider for assessments, quotes and installation. This will save significant amounts on administration costs for small and volunteer run institutions..

At the same time, we will be widening the criteria so mosques, church, temples and gurdwaras no longer need to show they have already experienced hate crime. If faith institutions in your constituency are interested in this scheme, please ask them to contact the Home Office at [securityfundingCED@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:securityfundingCED@homeoffice.gov.uk) so we can notify them when the scheme is launched later this year.

However, I recognise that there are immediate concerns before Ramadan. . That's why the Home Office is providing security training and advice through twelve safety and security workshops across England and Wales, as well as guidance and leaflets circulated to mosques, community centres and madrassahs. Advice from Faith Associates is available at [mosquesafety@faithassociates.co.uk](mailto:mosquesafety@faithassociates.co.uk) and [www.mosquesecurity.com](http://www.mosquesecurity.com). This short-term measure which has the support of the Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group, comes alongside the £5 million funding over 3 years that I have allocated to provide security training for churches, temples, gurdwaras as well as mosques.

This training and guidance complements security and safety advice that the police continue to give through their local relationships with mosques as well as the crowded places guidance (you can download it for free at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/crowded-places-guidance>) that specifically covers protective security for places of worship. I would encourage all places of worship to consider this available support and play their part in keeping their congregants safe.

At this time of religious reflection, devotion and celebration around the world, it is vital everyone feels safe and protected in the places of worship they attend. That is why I am determined to do whatever is necessary to protect this cornerstone of British life, the freedom to worship as we choose.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Javid', with a small comma at the end.

**Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP**