



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Cllr Eamonn O'Brien
Leader of the Council
Bury Council
Bury Town Hall
Knowsley St
Bury
Lancashire
BL9 0ST

Our Ref: JD2454

10 June 2020

Dear Councillor O'Brien

Re: Shukri Abdi

I write regarding the tragic death of Shukri Abdi in Bury 12 months ago, prior to my election as the Member of Parliament for Bury North in December 2019. As you are aware Shukri had been living in the UK since 2017 and was 12 years old.

The circumstances of Shukri's death caused grave concern within our Borough and throughout the country and I understand the circumstances have been investigated by the police and the matter is currently being investigated by the coroner.

Complaints of bullying and racist behaviour were brought to the attention of Bury Council following Shukri's death, but I understand these concerns had been raised prior to the tragic events of last June. Would you confirm this is correct and what steps Bury MBC and the relevant Cabinet Member took to address these very serious allegations? Was an independent investigation carried out by the Local Authority into the safeguarding issues surrounding these matters and the complaints made by Shukri's family and others?

I have received over 12,500 e-mails requesting that the events leading up to Shukri's death be investigated, specifically the role of the relevant cabinet member and others in positions of authority who had the power to investigate these events and the very serious issues related to alleged bullying and racism. If an independent investigation has not been carried out would you please confirm that such an inquiry be ordered immediately.

As an opposition councillor, I attended a vigil outside Shukri's school following her death last year and called for the Council to investigate these events further and, as referred to above, look forward to hearing what steps have been taken by Bury MBC to address the concerns of Shukri's family.

I have spoken with the office of the Mayor of Greater Manchester and I am informed that he will be asking Greater Manchester Police to review the evidence in this case and I support this step. Shukri's family must be kept fully informed of all developments. I understand that a number of potential new witnesses have come forward within the last 12 months and this evidence must be sought and properly assessed. Would you join me in urging the Mayor of Greater Manchester to do everything within his power to ensure there is a further investigation into the circumstances of Shukri's death?

Member of Parliament for Bury North

Working hard for everyone in
Bury, Ramsbottom and Tottington
Tel: 0161 546 0161
JamesDaly.org.uk

Westminster Office
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Constituency Office
60 Bolton Street
Bury
BL9 0LL

Furthermore it has been brought to my attention that the relevant cabinet member, who is still in position, was a member of the GM Crime Panel at the time of these events. Bury MBC website still lists the council cabinet member as a member of the GM Police and Crime Panel and, in fact, GMCA still list the Council Cabinet member as the Chair of the Police and Crime Panel. I would be grateful if you would confirm that any new investigation into the conduct of Bury MBC would consider whether there was an obvious conflict of interest in these circumstances and provide, for public scrutiny, the records of any interaction between the relevant Cabinet member, any Officer of Bury MBC and the police at the time of the original police investigation.

It is crucial that our Local Authority is open and transparent about the steps they took last June to investigate these tragic circumstances and what, if any, recommendations were made as to how the Local Authority would deal with such serious issues of child safeguarding going forward and any conclusions that were reached from any internal inquiry or investigation. If an Independent investigation was carried out could that please be published for the reasons outlined, so we can all see that these serious allegations of systematic bullying were dealt with in an appropriate manner.

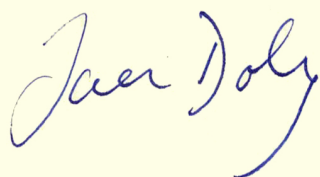
It has also come to my attention that last year a petition, addressed to the former MP for Bury North, calling for an investigation at the school received over 30,000 signatures. Could you confirm the council were aware of this and what, if anything, was done as a direct response to it.

Due to the severity of this matter and the urgent need for clarification on the events, I will be writing to the Secretary of State for Education requesting that this matter be looked into further.

I attach for your attention a copy of one of the e-mails I have received for your information, with the personal details of the sender redacted. To assist, could any future independent review or inquiry consider the actions taken at the time and in the aftermath of these events by those named in the correspondence and all those who were aware of the very serious complaints made by Shukri's family before and after her death.

I look forward to hearing from you as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James Daly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James Daly MP

Enc. Example of correspondence received