



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP
Secretary of State for Education
Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
20 Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT

Our Ref: JD2454

10 June 2020

Dear Secretary of State

Re: The case of Shukri Abdi

I am writing to you in respect of the events surrounding the tragic death of a 12 year old girl in my constituency, 12 months ago.

In June 2019, Shukri was found drowned in the River Irwell in Bury. The basic facts appearing to be that she had left the school with other pupils, not her friends, but a police investigation would be required to establish the circumstances of her death.

Shukri Abdi came to the United Kingdom with her family in 2017, refugees from Somalia. They were settled in Bury where she attended Broad Oak High School. Shukri was a vulnerable pupil and her family made complaints of systematic bullying to the school prior to her death. There were further allegations that Shukri had been the victim of racist behaviour.

The police investigation was concluded and appears to have drawn the conclusion that Shukri's death was accidental and no other parties were criminally culpable. Following on from Shukri's death there were calls for Bury MBC to investigate the circumstances of their own and the schools safeguarding processes to ensure all had been done to address the complaints of systematic bullying and whether anything further could potentially have been done to protect Shukri as a vulnerable pupil within the school environment.

Reports in the press today have stated that the Mayor of Greater Manchester who is also the Police and Crime Commissioner will "look into" the circumstances and current status of the criminal investigation. Shukri's death is currently being considered by the Coroner and at present the hearing has been adjourned indefinitely due to the ill health of a witness.

As the local Member of Parliament I have received over 12,000 e-mails requesting that an independent investigation be called into all matters relating to how Shukri's interests were protected by Bury MBC, the school and the conduct of those in charge of Bury MBC's education department at the time. It now appears that no independent investigation was carried out by the local authority, which is surprising considering the seriousness of these matters.

Member of Parliament for Bury North

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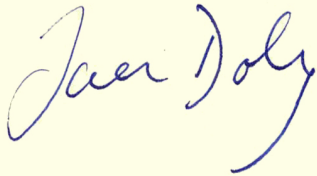
Constituency Office
60 Bolton Street
Bury
BL9 0LL

I have written to the Leader of Bury MBC, asking him to commission an investigation on the above terms and a copy of that correspondence is attached for your information.

I would request that you consider using the powers open to you to insist that such an investigation be undertaken to ensure that Shukri was not failed and the complaints of systematic bullying and racism were dealt with in a matter that did everything possible to protect the interests of a young, vulnerable child.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James Daly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping 'J' and 'D'.

James Daly MP

Enc. Letter sent to Bury Council Leader