



Rt. Honourable Priti Patel MP  
Home Office  
2 Marsham Street  
London, SW1P

6<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Dear Home Secretary

I am writing to you as leader of Lambeth council, where Sunday's appalling terrorist attack took place. Local people have been deeply shocked by this brutal attack at the heart of our diverse and united community. While businesses, the council, police and the community have rallied together, questions are now rightly being asked about how this attack was allowed to happen? I have serious concerns regarding the government's handling of the case of Sudesh Amman, who was able to injure three people and cause terror on our streets and I believe the people of Streatham have a right to answers to these serious questions.

I am deeply concerned that Lambeth residents have been put in harm's way by the decisions to place a convicted and unreformed terrorist in a bail hostel next to a high street and two schools in a busy residential area. How was this allowed to happen and at what level was this decision taken? What risk assessment was made around placing him in this area and about the vulnerability of Streatham High Road to such an attack?

News reports since the attack indicate that not only was Amman considered a serious enough threat to warrant round-the-clock surveillance, but that surveillance was heightened to include armed police in the days before the attack. What assurances can you provide to our residents about why this decision was taken without further steps to protect the public? Why was the decision not made to seek to revoke his early release in light of a heightened risk to the public?

The overwhelming conclusion is that the police and security services considered that an attack was likely yet no action was taken to move Amman or protect the people of Streatham. What assurances can you give to me, and other local authority leaders, of the decisions to place other such convicted terrorists in our boroughs without appropriate risk assessments or consultation?

As a local authority, we feel that this incident raises concerns about the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). Why are local authorities not included as statutory partners within this and will you conduct a review into these arrangements?

After the recent London Bridge attack, the government blamed previous governments (stretching back over 10 years) for the early release policy. Yet Amman was convicted and jailed only in 2018 and was released in the last two weeks. Why has this government not taken the action necessary to protect the public after being in power for almost a decade?

The people of Streatham deserve answers to these serious questions about how this attack was allowed to happen. I am releasing my letter to the public to that effect and look forward to your swift and detailed reply.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jack Hopkins', written in a cursive style. The signature is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Cllr Jack Hopkins  
Leader of Lambeth council