

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



25th February

Release the findings of the Windrush lessons learned review

Dear Home Secretary,

We are writing to you today as elected representatives of the many Lambeth residents who are part of the Windrush generation, and all those affected in recent years by the government's treatment of them. On behalf of those thousands of people who have been affected we urge you to act in a spirit of openness and transparency and release the findings of the Windrush review and all lessons learned in full and unamended.

We are deeply disturbed that the government, after creating such uncertainty and pain in the last few years, is now compounding that by failing to release the review many months after it was promised. We are even more disturbed by reports in the last few days that the review is being edited and watered down to remove blame for the treatment of thousands of people who have lived in this country for decades.

The government needs to learn the lessons in an open and transparent way of what happened in recent years with the implementation of the hostile environment policy. To fail to do so, at the same time many people are struggling to access compensation through a poorly designed and complex compensation scheme, is causing great hurt and anxiety amongst our residents.

The stories that we hear regularly of the trauma and immense sacrifices that the Windrush generation made in coming to this country and making it a home are distressing. We owe a huge amount to those who came here, who worked hard to improve our public services and enriched our society in so many ways.

We also know of the huge distrust and fear of the authorities that there is in our community given the horrific treatment of so many at the hands of the hostile environment policy.

Lambeth is where many of the Windrush generation found their home and their sense of belonging. This is where they settled, made their way in Britain and developed a true sense of community, identity and culture. As members and elected representatives of this community, we cannot stand by and watch the failures and cover ups of the past continue. We urge you to release the Windrush review unamended and immediately.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Sonia Winifred, Cabinet Member for Equalities and Culture, London Borough of Lambeth

Florence Eshalomi, Member of Parliament for Vauxhall

Helen Hayes, Member of Parliament for Dulwich and West Norwood

Bell Ribeiro-Addy, Member of Parliament for Streatham

