

Priti Patel MP
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF



11 June 2020

Dear Home Secretary,

I am writing to you as a matter of urgency in this difficult time, to urge you to take steps to begin to restore some confidence in you and your government from the Black community.

The ongoing debate on racial injustice catalysed by the murder of George Floyd continues to shine a light on how people from our Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities (BAME) are treated by this government.

The outcomes of successive government's hostile environment policy, exposed through the Windrush scandal, continue to oppress and malign our BAME communities. Your tweet talking about 'unimaginable suffering' following the BBC documentary about Anthony Bryan's case displays a vacuum of leadership on these matters. It isn't unimaginable for our BAME communities, it is the reality. It isn't that our BAME communities need more listening from the Home Office and your government, it needs actual concrete action.

The abject failure of the Windrush compensation scheme is but one part. With only 60 people compensated with just £360,000 distributed in total from a fund of hundreds of millions of pounds in a year is an insult. People who have had their lives turned upside down whilst at the same time building up this country need action from you to ensure they are properly compensated for the distress that the government has caused.

We have seen it with the report into the disproportionality of COVID-19 on our BAME communities too, with your government choosing not to publish Prof. Kevin Fenton's submission. Clearly, despite your tweet saying you will listen, the government is doing the opposite. Hiding the views of the over 4,000 BAME community groups with whom Prof. Fenton has engaged.

Finally, what has become abundantly clear over the past few weeks is that our BAME communities need to be empowered to curate public space in a way that properly commemorates their histories. The views expressed by of many of the Windrush generation and those involved in the campaign such as Arthur Torrington CBE of the Windrush Foundation which are critical of the government's decision to build a monument to the Windrush generation in Waterloo station need to be listened to.

We urge you to reconsider your proposed decision to place the monument in Waterloo, and to listen to the communities on the ground to begin to restore faith in the government. Place the monument where it belongs, in Windrush Square in Brixton.

The time has come for action, Home Secretary.

Yours sincerely,

London Borough of Lambeth
Leader's Office
Lambeth Town Hall
London SW2 1RW

www.lambeth.gov.uk



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'S Winifred', is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the page.

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