



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

FAO: Friends of Islamic Centre

By email only to:
friendsofislamiccentre@gmail.com

Charity Commission
PO Box 211
Bootle
L20 7YX

Our ref: C-531354-H1W7

Date: 14 June 2023

Dear Friends of Islamic Centre,

Re: Interim Manager appointed to Islamic Centre of England Limited

Thank you for your email to our Chairman, dated 9 June 2023, in which you have raised concerns about the Charity Commission's decision to appoint an Interim Manager ('IM') to the Islamic Centre of England Limited ('the Charity'). As the Director responsible for this work, I have been asked to respond.

As you are aware the Commission opened a statutory inquiry ('the Inquiry') into the Charity¹ on 14 November 2022 before later appointing an IM on 4 May 2023².

I am confident that the appointment of the IM to the Charity was in accordance with our statutory duties and functions and our obligations as an independent public body. Our decision in this case was based on regulatory concerns assessed against our published framework. It is a temporary, protective measure. The Order appointing the IM explicitly makes clear that the trustees of the Charity retain responsibility for the proper provision of religious services to the Charity's beneficiaries – this remains the case.

We need to act robustly where serious concerns about a charity exist, so that the public, and the charity sector itself, can have confidence in what it means to have charitable status. In this case I am confident that appointing the IM was the correct thing to do to address serious issues within the Charity that need to be resolved. All IMs are appointed in line with our guidance, and must work in accordance with the published code of conduct.

I understand that the trustees have written to the Charity's members to explain why they took the decision to temporarily close the centre. The trustees have committed

¹ [Regulator launches inquiry into Islamic Centre of England - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/regulator-launches-inquiry-into-islamic-centre-of-england)

² [Charity regulator appoints Interim Manager to the Islamic Centre of England - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/charity-regulator-appoints-interim-manager-to-the-islamic-centre-of-england)

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to working closely with the IM to resolve the issues within the Charity, and to work to reopen the Charity's centre as a matter of priority.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Helen Earner', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Helen Earner

Director of Regulatory Services

Charity Commission

cvi@charitycommission.gov.uk