



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

By email only to:
kerem@ihrc.org

Charity Commission
PO Box 211
Bootle
L20 7YX

Our ref: C-531354-H1W7

Date: 20 July 2023

Dear Friends of Islamic Centre,

Re: Interim Manager appointed to Islamic Centre of England Limited

Thank you for your further letter to our Chairman, received 24 June 2023, in which you have raised additional concerns about the Charity Commission's decision to appoint an Interim Manager ('IM') to the Islamic Centre of England Limited ('the Charity'). I have been asked to respond on the Commission's behalf.

In our letter to you of 13 June 2023, we set out the Commission's position on the IM's temporary appointment to the Charity and I would refer you to that letter for background information and context. Since that letter of 13 June 2023 there have been two important developments to bring to your attention.

The first is that we are now able to confirm publicly the reasons for the temporary closure of the Charity's Mosque since 23 May 2023 – which we'd understood from the Charity's trustees had already been communicated to its members in May 2023. As set out within the [recent press release](#), the ongoing temporary closure of the Mosque results from problems in securing necessary insurance cover, an issue that predates the appointment of the IM, and which the trustees were unable to resolve themselves. Since being appointed the IM has worked hard with the trustees to secure insurance for the Charity so that it can reopen the Mosque to worshippers as soon as is possible, and this process is ongoing.

The second is that as you may be aware, on 12 June 2023, the Charity's trustees lodged an appeal with the First-tier Tribunal (Charity) against the Commission's decision to appoint the IM, now publicly [listed on the Tribunal's website](#). Until this matter is determined by the Tribunal, the IM remains in place and the appointment continues. This is the correct process for the trustees to challenge the appointment of the IM. Given that the IM's appointment is now subject to litigation, it would not be appropriate for me to comment further on the merits of this particular decision.

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What may be helpful is for me to set out in general terms that the [legislation used to appoint IMs](#) applies to all charities – when the circumstances require it, the Commission has previously appointed an IM to a number of charities with a range of recognised charitable purposes in line with our [published policy and approach](#). For the reasons set out above, it is not appropriate to comment further on this particular appointment pending the outcome of the litigation.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Hopkins

Assistant Director

Charity Commission

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