



**James Brokenshire MP**  
**PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY FOR CRIME AND SECURITY**  
2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF  
[www.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk)

Mehri Niknam MBE  
Executive Director  
Council of Imams and Rabbis  
The Joseph Interfaith Foundation  
Suite 2, Savant House  
63-65 Camden High Street  
NW1 7JL

CTS Reference: M19198/11

21 NOV 2011

*Dear Mr Niknam,*

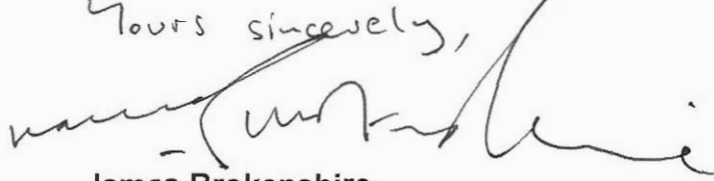
Thank you for your letter of 31 October informing the Home Secretary that the Council of Imams and Rabbis of the Joseph Interfaith Foundation has sought to dispel the false perception that the Jewish Community supports the English Defence League (EDL). I am responding as the Home Office Minister responsible for policy in this area.

Although community cohesion is primarily the responsibility of the Department for Communities and Local Government your letter has been noted at the Home Office. We welcome your positive action to counter the divisive influence and minimise the impact of EDL activity.

As a Government our position is clear, we will not tolerate groups like the EDL who spread hate, seek to divide us and deliberately raise community fears and tensions. We will:

- speak out and condemn their views and actions where appropriate;
- continue to develop an effective public order policing response;
- engage with local areas to support local action to tackle the EDL; and
- develop our knowledge base so that we better understand the drivers of EDL support and can develop successful approaches to deal with the problem.

Local agencies know their communities best and we trust them to put in place suitable local measures to counter the influence and minimise the impact of EDL activity. We stand ready to provide advice and support where it is requested.

Yours sincerely,  
  
James Brokenshire