



26 March 2018

Dear Neighbour,

Islington has a proud history of openness and inclusion, which was shown last summer when our diverse communities united in response to the terrorist attack in Finsbury Park. The council has continued to work hard with our partners, including faith groups, community organisations, police and others to tackle hate crime in the borough.

We are concerned by the threatening letters received by some Muslim individuals and organisations across the country in recent weeks. This is being treated as an Islamophobic hate crime and we are working closely with the local police and our community partners to keep people in Islington safe.

There is currently no evidence that the letters have resulted in planned criminal activity against Muslim residents on 3rd April, but there will be a local policing plan in place on that day as a precaution. We are encouraging everyone in Islington to continue their normal activities, at the same time as being vigilant and supportive of one another.

If anyone receives a threatening letter they should not share this online, or by hand, but report it to the police immediately. Any other relevant information or evidence should also be reported by calling 101, or 999 in an emergency. We recognise that these letters are distressing and may lead to people being concerned for their safety. Anyone who is concerned can follow the safety advice given by Tell MAMA, which is enclosed.

Anyone who experiences or witnesses a hate crime, at any time, should report it to the police. Hate crimes are criminal offences where the victims are targeted because of an aspect of their identity such as religion and belief or race and ethnicity. Hate crimes can take many forms and include offensive letters and graffiti, online and verbal abuse and physical assaults (pushing, spitting and pulling of clothes can all be counted as assault).

None of this behaviour is tolerated and we always encourage people to report incidents. **The police can be called on 101, or 999 in an emergency.** You can also report online: at www.report-it.org.uk or use the 'Self Evident' app: witnessconfident.org/self-evident-app 'Tell MAMA' also takes reports: tellmamauk.org

We are determined that our borough will not be divided by the fear that these threats are designed to create, and that Islington will instead continue to stand together.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Una O'Halloran
Mayor of Islington