

JEREMY QUIN MP
Member of Parliament for Horsham



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

10th February 2017

Dear Constituent,

RE: OATH OF BRITISH VALUES

Thank you for contacting me about the proposed oath of British values for holders of public office.

The UK is home to many different cultures, and immigrants have made a significant contribution to this country. I am proud of the tolerance and respect that we show to people coming to this country from abroad, but that is not to say that tensions do not sometimes arise between communities. A review on community cohesion published by Dame Louise Casey shows that ethnic segregation is increasing in some areas, this is a concern and we should do all we can to help immigrants integrate fully into British society.

This review identified values around which people from all different backgrounds unite. To this end, it suggested the introduction of an integration oath on arrival for immigrants intending to settle in Britain. The review suggested that a new oath for holders of public office would help reinforce standards to be upheld in public life.

These were recommendations which the Government will be responding to in the spring. Let me assure you, however, that any oath would not be about imposing a one-size-fits all identity on everyone in this country. I know that this Government would never adopt a policy that would impact on freedom of religion. Indeed, this is one of the fundamental British values that any oath would be designed to uphold.

I have been assured that the Government will be considering all views before making a final decision.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Quin'.