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Ms Claire Bassett
Chief Executive
Electoral Commission
3 Bunhill Row
London
EC1Y 8YZ

Wednesday 7 February 2018

Dear Chief Executive,

Re: Registration of Aspire "Political Party"

I am writing to confirm that on 17th January I wrote to the electoral commission drawing attention to the potential confusion of Lutfur Rahman's latest political party using the name Aspire. As I confirm in my letter, which I attach:-

- Aspire is Toynbee Hall's flagship youth project, supporting young people to become active members of the community.

During the course of the election court, the misuse by Lutfur Rahman of the council's youth service was referred to on a number of occasions. It cannot be coincidence that this latest, third attempt to form a political party used the name of the flagship youth project by one of the most respected charities in London. Toynbee Hall has been graced, by amongst others, Arnold Toynbee, Mahatma Gandhi, Clement Attlee and William Beveridge, all of whom dedicated themselves to the service of the underprivileged. Toynbee Hall and its charities are widely known for the work that they undertake in Tower Hamlets.

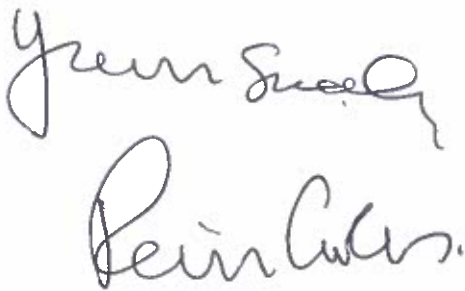
On 17th January I also sent two emails to your office identifying another charity called Aspire; <https://www.aspire.org.uk/our-purpose>, a recruitment consultancy. There is also a care group; <http://aspirecg.co.uk/> and a housing group; <https://www.aspirehousing.co.uk/executive-team>.

I suspect none of them would wish to be tainted by a so called political party that is a byword for corruption and malpractice. Importantly young voters in Tower Hamlets may get the impression that Aspire has some connection with Toynbee Hall.

My letter also pointed out the continued use of the House logo, that Tower Hamlets First used and Tower Hamlets Together attempted to use.

In terms of Aspire it is the Lutfur Rahman Party by a different name. An exercise of googling would have established that.

I would hope that you will reconsider the decision to recognise "Aspire" and also correct the record of the GLA meeting to confirm that I **did** raise these matters to the electoral commission.

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The top signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read 'Peter Golds'. The bottom signature is also in cursive and appears to read 'Peter Golds'.

Councillor Peter Golds

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Majella La Praik
Registration Manager
Political Finance and Regulation
The Electoral Commission
3 Bunhill Row
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Wednesday 17th January 2018

Dear Ms La Praik

Re Proposed registration of "Aspire" Political Party

Last year the electoral commission rejected an application for a political party using the name of "Tower Hamlets Together." This is the name of a respected and established local partnership dedicated to improving health and well being in the borough.

Tower Hamlets Together was formed by the disgraced former Mayor, Lutfur Rahman, who was discharged from public office for corrupt and illegal practices and has recently been removed from the roll of solicitors by the Solicitors Regulation Authority. He is the founder of "Aspire" and, it would appear, personally selects and endorses the candidates who will stand in the coming local elections on his behalf. This is proven by literature circulated within the borough on behalf of his candidates.

The name Aspire can be no coincidence. One of the most respected organisations in this borough is Toynbee Hall. It was at Toynbee Hall that Clement Attlee set out on the path that led to him becoming a great Prime Minister. A look at the current Toynbee Hall website shows that:

- "Aspire is Toynbee Hall's flagship youth project, supporting young people to become active members of the community."

Twice in a year a tiny group of politicians, mired in corruption, have attempted to utilise the name of long established organisations that are respected throughout the borough and indeed the country for a political party which they have founded.

The chosen logo, a house, is almost identical that of Tower Hamlets First and the failed Tower Hamlets Together. The dubious use of this logo was identified in the Mawrey Election Court Judgement.

Currently Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary are examining the flawed "investigation" into Lutfur Rahman's corruption. I attach two quotations from the most recent report of this examination code named Operation Lynemouth.

- "It would appear that the original MPS investigation failed to secure pivotal evidence which could have led to further enquiries. Operation Lynemouth has done so and is seeking early advice from the CPS as to whether the evidence provides realistic opportunities for investigation and prosecution."
- "The MPS's fraud squad considered ten matters during the original investigation, including allegations of fraud, bribery, perjury and tax evasion, but did not make any arrests. Operation Lynemouth has already identified potential evidential opportunities, although there is still much work to be done."

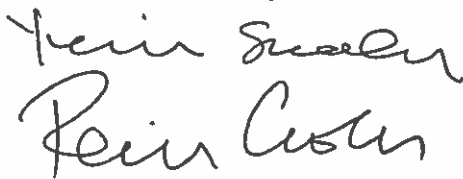
One aspect of examination is fraud within the council's youth service under the Rahman administration. It is therefore even more dubious to use the name of a respected Youth Organisation within the borough for this political party. Just as the previous attempt at registration sought to utilise an established organisation and failed, this must surely fail.

The "leader" Kalam Mahmud Abu Taher Choudhury remains and I would refer to his description by Commissioner Mawrey for his "intemperate" support of Lutfur Rahman in the newspapers with which he is connected.

The "treasurer" Jahed Bokth Choudhury, is involved in the mini cab business. He is the next door neighbour of Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Lutfur Rahman's personally chosen mayoral candidate.

There is little evidence that either will be capable of undertaking the duties of a registered political party.

I trust that as last year, the electoral commission will reject this registration.



Councillor Peter Golds CBE