



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

20 October 2014

Dear Trustees of Park View Trust and Mr Colin Diamond,

Follow up to Friday's meeting

Many thanks for meeting me and parents on Friday. I write to set out three of the key steps you outlined. I would be grateful if we can meet in order to discuss the timetable for action as set out below:

1. **Appointment of parents as trust members.** You have conducted interviews already. Many of those interviewed felt that the line of questioning about their religious beliefs was inappropriate. Can I therefore have the following;
 - a. An assurance that all interviewees were asked the same questions
 - b. The precise paragraphs from the school's corporate governance documents explaining the legal basis for interviewing and selecting - rather than electing - parents' Trust representatives
 - c. Your assurance that 'appointments' if that is what you propose - will be made this week. Please let me have the date. As you heard on Friday, the delays in this, contrary to various verbal assurances given, is damaging confidence.

2. **'Election' of trust directors.** You said on Friday that trust directors would be elected. This was news to both me and most people in the room. Please can you set out the timetable and process for this, and provide me with a pointer to where in the school's constitution you are drawing your legal basis for action and approach.

3. **Formation of parents' groups, such as Parents' Associations.** You said on Friday that the current Trust members were open to this idea, but that the governance arrangements would need to be considered and ratified by the full, complete set of Trust members. This is reasonable. Hitherto, ministers have appeared to pour cold water on the idea of such an association, even though they are standard practice in other academies. Given the context, I know that you and indeed ministers will want to be incredibly careful to avoid



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accusations of discrimination against Park View and Nansen parents. Please can you propose a timetable for this?

Can I underline again that it is perfectly normal for parents to want this information. As the Member of Parliament, I want it too, as I am sure, does the Secretary of State.

We are working hard to get PVET out the headlines, and 'back to normal'. But we need urgent progress to deliver this.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State.

With all best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liam Byrne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

RT HON LIAM BYRNE MP
Birmingham Hodge Hill