

Date: 02 Jan 2008

John Varley
Group Chief Executive
Barclays Bank PLC
1 Churchill Place
London
E14 5HP

Our Ref: Barc01/01/09

RE: Closure of Ummah Welfare Trust accounts

Dear Mr. Varley,

The Lancashire Council of Mosques (LCM) is an umbrella organisation for over 70 mosques, schools and educational establishments. Established in 1989, LCM represents over 100,000 people across the region and is involved in various educational and community cohesion projects.

On behalf of LCM and its affiliates, I would like to express our shock over the recent 30 day closure notice given to the Ummah Welfare Trust (UWT) without providing a valid reason. UWT is a leading international relief and development charity which is registered with and regulated by the Charity Commission. The Commission has not instigated any investigation into the charity and the decision merely undermines the Commission's role.

UWT has been at the forefront of responding to disasters and targeting charities in this manner seems to be a concerted attempt to stop the good work in politically-sensitive regions by leading British Muslim charities. The trust has also funded projects in the UK such as donating £25,000 to the University Hospitals of Leicester and £2,000 to the Gloucestershire Floods Appeal and LCM regards this decision as detrimental to community cohesion.

LCM fails to understand the basis of this decision and requests you to review your decision. Otherwise, we will have no choice but to initiate a campaign across Lancashire informing Barclays' customers to consider closing their accounts.

We look forward to your response,

Yours sincerely



Councillor Salim Mulla
Senior Vice-Chair, LCM

CC: Rt. Hon Jack Straw MP
Barclays Blackburn Branch
Lord Adam Patel
Ummah Welfare Trust
All LCM Affiliates
The Charity Commission.

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