



Dame Meg Hillier MP
Chair, Public Accounts Committee
House of Commons
Westminster
SW1A 0AA

10 May 2024

Dear Chair,

Thank you for your letter of 9 April 2024 regarding the four-year direct award of the Jewish Community Protective Security (JCPS) Grant to the Community Security Trust (CST) for the period 2024-28.

As you know, the safety and security of the Jewish community is of the utmost importance to this Government. CST is a highly trusted and expert delivery partner, with considerable experience of providing protective security for the Jewish community. CST also supportively collaborates on wider HMG objectives, including with police and CT police; and proactively shares security expertise with other faith groups.

The Ministerial Direction was given to provide assurance of continued support in response to the appalling increase in antisemitic incidents experienced by UK Jewish communities since 7 October 2023, and the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas. This further funding of £72m enables CST to continue their vital work in protecting Jewish communities in the UK until 2028.

On 28th February 2024, the Home Office received written confirmation from HM Treasury that the conditions put in place for the JCPS Grant for 2023-24 had been lifted, enabling CST to continue to manage the grant on behalf of the Home Office and provide funding for protective security measures at synagogues, Jewish educational establishments, and other Jewish community sites.

As you have noted, the JCPS Grant to CST has never been through a competitive process. However, I can reassure you and members of the Public Affairs Committee and Home Affairs Select Committee, that the Home Office has effective quality and assurance in place with CST to ensure public funds are managed correctly. This includes governance mechanisms, continuous monitoring and reporting processes.

My officials continue to work closely with CST to ensure that the JCPS Grant for 2024-28 meets the needs of Jewish communities across the UK. This will ensure that the Grant continues to be used for its intended purpose and that the risks, as highlighted in the letter from the Home Secretary to the Permanent Secretary, are managed appropriately.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J. Cleverly', written in a cursive style.

Rt Hon. James Cleverly MP
Home Secretary