

Jamie Stone MP
Chair of the Petitions Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

1st June 2026

Dear Mr Stone,

Thank you for your reply of 3 March 2026 regarding e-petition 752646, “Call a public inquiry into pro-Israel influence on politics & democracy”. I was disappointed by your decision not to reject this petition or the basis that that it is defamatory, contains false or unproven statements, and draws upon conspiratorial antisemitic tropes.

Since your response, the context has changed significantly. Following an antisemitic terror attack in Golders Green which left two Jewish men hospitalised, and amid a spate of arson attacks against the Jewish community, the Prime Minister hosted a summit in Downing Street with senior government ministers and civil society leaders to discuss this crisis. In the King’s Speech, His Majesty the King reiterated the government’s commitment to “take urgent action to tackle antisemitism”.

This petition demonstrates precisely why that commitment is so necessary, and the Committee’s decision to schedule a debate on it is completely irresponsible.

E-petition 752646 alleges the existence of “Israeli state-linked” and “pro-Israel” influence campaigns shaping government decision-making, party policy and public debate, yet provides no credible evidence to substantiate these claims. As drafted, it invites suspicion of covert or improper activity by unnamed organisations.

This is not a legitimate policy concern; it is a manifestation of one of the oldest and most dangerous antisemitic conspiracy theories. Conspiratorial references to an alleged “pro-Israel” influence over British institutions, draws on a well-established “myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions”, explicitly identified as antisemitic by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism, which the UK government adopted in 2016.

Terms such as “Zionist Lobby” or “Israel Lobby”, when deployed indiscriminately as a label for Jewish organisations and individuals, also combine claims of disproportionate Jewish influence with the trope that Jews are disloyal and untrustworthy.

From suggestions of ‘pro-Israel control of MPs’ to accusations of a ‘well-funded and powerful Jewish lobby’, these conspiracy theories have become increasingly normalised in public discourse. The fact that more than 100,000 people signed this petition is a clear indictment of how mainstream these antisemitic tropes have become.

In your reply, you said that you “would expect all Members – regardless of their views on the ask of the petition – to have sincere regard for the wellbeing and safety of the Jewish community and the potential impact of the language they use.”

Unfortunately, I am deeply concerned that some MPs will show little regard for the potential impact of their language on the wellbeing and safety of the Jewish community during this debate.

We are due to meet John Lamont MP, who I understand is opening the debate for the committee, to discuss these concerns further.

Parliament should not legitimise antisemitic conspiracy theories by treating them as matters for reasonable democratic debate. Instead, this debate must be a moment to draw a clear line against the mainstreaming of antisemitic rhetoric in British public life.

Yours sincerely,



Russell Langer

Director of Public Affairs, Jewish Leadership Council