

My ref: DB/CD/JB3003100004

Your ref:

The Rt Hon Harriet Harman MP
Leader of the House of Commons, Lord Privy Seal,
Minister for Women and Cabinet Minister for Equality
Government Equalities Office
9th Floor, Eland House
Bressenden Place
London
SW1E 5DU

30 March 2010

Dear Mrs Harman,

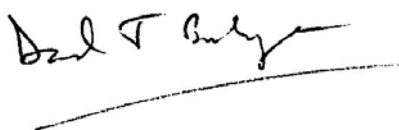
On Tuesday 23rd February, the Full Council meeting of the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead passed the following motion:

This Council opposes the introduction of Labour's new Equality Bill. This Council therefore resolves to:

- a) note that such a Bill would legally force local authorities, such as the Royal Borough, to promote the 'reduction of inequality of people which results from socio-economic disadvantages.' In doing so the Bill would wrongly attempt to use local authorities as social engineering tools.
- b) note that Professor Tony Travers, an expert in local government, has said that the Bill would inevitably influence the way public servants make policy decisions moving Council taxpayers money from one part of the country to the other with rural and suburban Councils likely to be particularly hard hit.
- c) ask the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive to write to the relevant Minister and the Royal Borough's Members of Parliament not to support the further passage of this Bill through Parliament."

This letter is further to that request. The Bill is now at its final committee stage and might well be passed before the dissolution of Parliament in a few weeks time. Whilst the Royal Borough believes in equality of opportunity for all our residents, we have concerns that this Bill does not take into account that the local authority must respond to the needs of its residents, and that it will encourage reverse discrimination. Consequently, we would respectfully urge members not to support the progress of the Bill in its current form.

Yours sincerely,



Cllr David Burbage
Leader of the Council



Ian Trenholm
Chief Executive

Ian Trenholm: Chief Executive

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