

Refutation of Allegations in 'Trojan Horse'

PRESS RELEASE 9th March 2014

Over the past week there has been substantial coverage of an alleged Islamic plot to take over state schools in Birmingham via the Academies Programme. This ridiculous assertion is based entirely upon a leaked document nonsensically referred to as 'Operation Trojan Horse'. This press release is to address the baseless and false assertions that have been made in this anonymous, unsigned and undated document, the authenticity of which any decent and fair-minded person would question and quite quickly conclude as a hoax.

The document is the basis of the many sensationalised and Islamophobic articles in the media which seek to defame and vilify respectable individuals and institutions. As one of the people named in this anonymous document by its fictitious author, I wish to state that any reference to me is a malicious fabrication and completely untrue. Please consider the following:

- The document suggests collusion between myself, the Director of Education of Birmingham and senior Birmingham Local Authority officials to remove headteachers and replace them with Muslims. At no point has any official from Birmingham Local Authority contacted me or liaised with me in relation to the schools mentioned in the document. I urge the Local Authority to confirm that the letter is a hoax and publish its recent investigations into Adderley Primary School, Regents Park Primary School and Saltley Secondary School as well as their investigation into the authenticity of the 'Operation Trojan Horse' document. I am confident that each of these investigations will prove that I have no involvement whatsoever.
- The document suggests that Park View is seeking to take over the aforementioned schools; this is an absurd idea. These schools are graded as 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. It is preposterous to suggest that Park View is somehow seeking to 'take over' these schools via the Academies programme. I can confirm that at no time has any discussion taken place between Park View, the DfE or the Local Authority in relation to these schools. The additional claim that there is an Islamic plot is simply tapping into prejudices and stereotypes about Muslims. The media has failed to highlight other allegations mentioned in the letter because it undermines their sensational headlines.
- The detail concerning Adderley Primary School in this document is of significant importance. The headteacher at Adderley is a Muslim. If the plot was to take over schools run by non-Muslims then it is odd that Adderley should be targeted as its current governing body and leadership team are predominantly Muslims. Why is a suggested plot to take over schools with non-Muslim headteachers cited as an intention to remove a Muslim headteacher? I ask you to consider why Saltley School

and Regents Park School are mentioned briefly in this hoax document yet there is extensive mention of Adderley School. The 'Operation Trojan Horse' document mentions a number of ongoing investigations into, amongst other things, allegations of forgery and misconduct which threaten the removal of the headteacher at Adderley School. I would ask that Birmingham Local Authority to consider who is likely to use and benefit from these baseless and false allegations in any ongoing investigations for the aforementioned schools.

- The document refers to a headteacher at Springfield School and how the alleged 'plotters' attempted to remove her but did not succeed; and how they are still trying to remove her now. A simple Google search has revealed that she was headteacher of Springfield Primary School around 1993 and has not been at the school for a very long time. My involvement in education started in 1997. This factual inaccuracy further undermines the veracity of the whole document and shows it is a complete concoction. Again the Local Authority's investigation into 'Trojan Horse' should also confirm this inaccuracy and that this letter is a hoax.

Finally, I have managed to obtain four pages of a scanned copy of the original 'Trojan Horse' document, which I have attached so that you can make your own mind up. It is obviously and self-evidently fabricated and tries to discredit me. I have worked voluntarily as a school governor since 1997 for nothing other than the improvement of children's education. I am a National Leader of Governance. I am a specialist in school governance training for the Local Authority. I have longstanding service to school improvement and my track record at Park View demonstrates how we have successfully transformed the lives of inner city children from a highly deprived area.

I urge you to consider: from the ongoing investigations taking place in the above mentioned schools, which individuals or institutions are likely to use and benefit from baseless and false allegations in the 'Trojan Horse' document?

Tahir Alam