

**OFFICIAL WARNING OF
THE CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

to

ISLAMIC CENTRE OF ENGLAND LIMITED

(Registered Charity No: 1058998)

dated the

10 June 2020

The Charity Commission for England and Wales ('the Commission') issues the Official Warning under section 75A of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'), on the following grounds:

Section 75(1)(b) of the Act: *a breach of trust or duty or other misconduct and/or mismanagement has been committed in connection with a charity.*

The trustees have committed a breach of trust or duty and/or misconduct and/or mismanagement as follows:

1. On 3 January 2020, and in response to Major General Qasem Soleimani's ('Maj Gen Soleimani') death, the Charity's trustees allowed a candlelight vigil to take place for him on the Charity's premises ('the first event'). Maj Gen Soleimani has been subject to financial sanctions by HM Treasury for terrorism and/or terrorist financing, since 17 October 2011, following a designation under section 2 of the Terrorist Asset Freezing Etc Act 2010.

During the first event an individual who had not been authorised to speak by the Charity was filmed outside the Charity's premises making a speech which appeared to be praising and calling for support for Maj Gen Soleimani. This exposed the Charity to the risk of being associated with the speaker, who may have committed an offence under section 1 of the Terrorism Act 2006, for glorification of terrorism, which falls within the scope of encouragement of terrorism. The Charity's trustees, who were present during the speech at the first event, did not intervene, provide a counter narrative, or minimise the impact of the content of his speech. One of the Charity's trustees also spoke at the first event.

2. On 4 January 2020 the trustees organised an event, separate to the above, at the Charity's premises for Maj Gen Soleimani ('the second event'). One of the trustees also published public statements on the Charity's website in condolence for Maj Gen Soleimani which included praise for him.

3. The trustees have failed to take notice of and apply the regulatory advice and guidance issued to them by the Commission under section 15(2) of the Act on 9 January 2015 regarding the hosting of public events and the selection of speakers. The actions of the trustees in arranging the second event and allowing an unauthorised speaker to make speeches at the first event has damaged the Charity's reputation, which is a valuable asset of the Charity.

Action that the Commission considers should be taken by the trustees to rectify the breach of trust or duty and/or misconduct and/ or mismanagement

The trustees, on behalf of the Charity, are to:

- a. Take the necessary steps to review all references to Maj Gen Soleimani on the Charity's website and ensure they are lawful and in the best interests of the Charity.
- b. Take necessary steps to ensure any future events that are held at the Charity's premises are only conducted following:
 - i. Appropriate discussions at trustee meetings;
 - ii. The carrying out of appropriate risk assessments, which includes handling situations which could bring the Charity's reputation into disrepute; and,
 - iii. A review of its speaker policy and ensuring that all future events comply with it.

Failure to remedy the breach of trust or duty and/or misconduct and/or mismanagement specified above may lead to further regulatory action being taken by the Commission.