

2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020

## Government Taskforce and Roundtable for Reopening of Gurdwaras

*Waheguru ji ka Khalsa, Waheguru ji ki Fateh*

Sikh Assembly joined the many invitees of Lord Greenhalgh's taskforce roundtable meeting, to discuss the reopening of Gurdwaras as soon as it is safe to do so. Prominent Sikh representatives included Bhai Sahib Bhai Mohinder Singh, Sdr Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesei MP, Sdn Preet Kaur Gill MP, Sdr Gurinder Singh Josan CBE and Sdr Gurmail S Malhi.

Sikh Assembly CEO, Sdn Paramjit Kaur Matharu, welcomed the inclusion of a variety of Sikhs at the roundtable,

*"This is a very encouraging development, enabling a broad and robust engagement of those concerned with Gurdwara management, the community and individual welfare and safety."*

Civil servants also accepted Paramjit Kaur's recommendation that a timeslot should be allocated for the elderly, to avoid busy periods in the same manner as adopted by supermarkets.

The Government intends to issue broadly principled guidance and a template for risk assessment, inviting Gurdwaras to account for social distancing measures to allow for a safe access capacity for each building, its size and layout.

They provided clarity on the earlier stages of lockdown guidelines and confirmed that there would be no early easement of rules from 1<sup>st</sup> June. The Government remains committed to making enough progress for a significant change of the status quo by 4<sup>th</sup> July. Sikh Assembly understand that the Government will appoint a single representative to the Taskforce in the next few days.

In the coming weeks, the group will focus on facilitating individual prayer and small wedding functions, with the help of the Gurdwara Management Committees and their cooperation in understanding the new requirements to keep the Sangat safe. This consultation will be supplemented by the various members of the roundtable and the guidance documents produced by them earlier in the process.

Sikh Assembly remains committed to pursuing collaboration, development and partnership in the best interests of the Sikh community. We look forward to continuing productive and positive engagement, experience and dialogue.

**Community Resource Team**  
**Sikh Assembly**