



29<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Dear Mr Johnson

I am writing following the hustings that I was privileged to chair yesterday evening for the Uxbridge and South Ruislip constituency. Before the debate began we held a minute silence to remember all those impacted by the tragic events in Manchester last week. We are grateful to the police for their presence throughout offering reassurance at a time of heightened security.

The debate itself was good natured. The passion of candidates and constituents in attendance was evident. All demonstrated a desire to seek the best for our constituency, though there were differences of opinion regarding what comprises 'best'.

It was unfortunate that you were unable to join in the hustings due to your prior engagement; candidates and audience members alike expressed views that you were missed. The questions during the evening came from those present and covered issues relating to disability, education, Heathrow expansion, domestic violence and Britain leaving the European Union. During the course of the hustings, in response to the concerns raised by constituents all four of the candidates present (Mark Keir, Green; Vincent Lo, Labour; Rosina Robson, Lib Dem; Liz Kemp, UKIP) made three commitments:

1. Members of the audience commented that just 2% of UK universities are fully accessible (a factor as to why less than 50% of young people with disabilities transfer from secondary school to higher education) and a claim that only one of twenty-two primary schools in the London Borough of Hillingdon is fully accessible. In response to this information all four participating candidates pledged to launch a review (if elected) into disability access to schools, colleges and universities in the borough and to seek to improve access to education for children and young people with disabilities.
2. Each candidate pledged a review of the DWP policies in regards to providing a stronger pathway of support for victims of Domestic Violence.
3. Each candidate agreed the expansion of Heathrow airport with a third runway was not in the best interest of the constituency or the country as a whole. All agree that those for people facing the threat of eviction harassment from HAL will not be tolerated, and that legal protection and compensation in the event of compulsory sale or purchase must be provided.

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I was asked by the audience (constituents of Uxbridge and South Ruislip) if I would make contact with you to ask if, like the other candidates, you too can commit to these pledges.

I am writing as an open letter (a copy will be available on our website) so that those who attended will know that I have written to you as I promised I would. I look forward to your response and will make this equally available.

As with all candidates; I wish you well with the final days of campaigning, for the election itself, and (if elected) to working with you for the benefit of our community.

Yours faithfully,

Rich Blake-Lobb  
*(Pastor)*