

KIM LEADBEATER MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Toby Young  
The Free Speech Union  
85 Great Portland Street  
London  
W1W 7LT

9 August 2021

Dear Toby,

Thank you for your letter regarding the teacher at Batley Grammar School.

As you would expect, I have been following the situation very closely both before and after my election as MP for Batley and Spen. I welcomed the report by the independent experts appointed by the Batley Multi Academy Trust which I believe has provided an opportunity for the school to implement recommendations in the interests of pupils and staff, our local community and particularly the individuals involved, for whom this has been an extremely traumatic time.

I have said publicly on more than one occasion that it is completely unacceptable for a teacher to be forced into hiding and his family put at risk. I can assure you that their well-being is of great importance to me both personally and as the MP for the area.

I have written a personal letter to the teacher, through his union, offering my assistance and support at any time, either now or in the future. I have assured him that if he would like to meet me privately, I would be very happy to do so. I have also met with West Yorkshire Police to discuss the family's safety and security as well as that of the pupils and teachers at Batley Grammar.

This situation is a very sensitive and emotive one for many people across Batley and Spen, but we must never forget that there is a family at the centre of it, and they must be allowed time and space to make their own decisions about what is best for them. As I said during a BBC hustings event during the by-election, whether the teacher returns to the classroom should be up to him and his family. This remains my view. If it is his wish to do so, I will fully support him. But he should be afforded the time and privacy, along with his family, to decide on his plans for the future.

What I won't be doing is discussing the matter in public or on social media as I do not believe this to be either helpful or appropriate.

Please rest assured that I will continue to do all that I can to ensure the wellbeing of all my constituents and of our community as a whole.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kleadbeater".

Kim Leadbeater MP  
**Member of Parliament for Batley and Spen**

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