

STATEMENT

"I am pleased that after almost a year the Panel has published their findings and put part of the report into the public domain. I have cooperated with this process at every stage and refrained from public comment whilst it was underway.

The Report claims that those interviewed and criticised were offered the opportunity to read those criticisms and respond to them before the Report was finalised. I was not offered this opportunity other than in relation to extracts from an unpublished appendix containing an accountant's Report. I had welcomed the opportunity to publish my responses on the JLC's website which goes some way towards rectifying this. However, I am disappointed that they have refused to publish the bulk of my detailed response because they say it contains defamatory statements about third parties. I had originally been led to understand that they would publish my response and redact any parts they felt might be defamatory. Instead a detailed forty-six section response has been rejected in its entirety.

I am also disappointed that JLC has refused to publish a section of this statement because they claim it contains information that could lead to the identification of the whistleblower. I believe it set out important background that is being suppressed. My position set out in the deleted text and restated here is that I have and will continue to refrain from naming the individual because I have no wish to cause any anxiety, pain or distress to the individual and because I am under twin threats of injunction by the JLC and legal action by the individual concerned.

I further note that having fully cooperated with a somewhat dystopian process, in which I was assured that the documents to which I was given limited access under tight supervision at the offices of JLC's solicitors over the past week were the documents and statement that would be issued to the media. At the very end of the day yesterday I received an email from JLC's solicitors disclosing that their statement will contain new material disclosing that materials in the (unpublished) accountant's report have been referred to the Police. Having only been informed of this last night and having only seen limited extracts from this appendix to the main Report I am unable to comment further on this development at this point.

The behaviour set out above feels like censorship, bullying and gaslighting.

As the former CEO, I accept the Report's criticism of some administrative processes and procedures. I consistently advised the Trustees that greater investment in this dimension of the JLC was required and should have pressed much harder for this advice to be accepted. However the dominant view of the Trustees that resources should be directed towards projects and tangible outputs was reasonable and understandable in the context in which the charity operated.

Last year a sustained attack against me was pursued in the media and elsewhere. It was based upon unattributed 'leaks', incorrect information and a complete lack of context, detail and background. It is clear from the Report that after spending a huge amount of time and money investigating the issues they have not been able to stand up the core allegations against me that were published last year. Reading the official statements you would hardly notice that the Panel's report fails to substantiate any material loss to the JLC. They have identified failings and errors on the part of former Trustees, Auditors/Accountants and others. Yet I have been the person vilified and demonised in multiple arenas.

I am proud of the achievements of the JLC under my professional leadership. We defeated the academic boycott of Israel. We massively increased the amount of money and resource available for the political defence of our community. We modernised the communal infrastructure and delivered massive savings to Jewish charities and schools via our shared resources initiative. We led the community in taking to the streets in celebration of Israel's key anniversaries - and in support of Israel during more difficult times. We delivered major strategic projects on Jewish schooling; youth provision and involvement of women in communal life. We set up and funded the LEAD Division to train and nurture a new generation of leaders who have gone on to head major communal bodies. These initiatives alone have changed the landscape of our community. They ensured the continued provision of Jewish education in Essex for another generation. They positioned the JLC to play a leading role in the fight against contemporary antisemitism.

I will not hide behind criticisms of process. I will own any criticisms that are fair, and learn from them. I hope that people will have the opportunity to read my more detailed response that the JLC has declined to publish. I am prepared to answer any further questions that the JLC, Charity Commission, Police, or others may have."

ENDS

Jeremy Newmark

Provided to JLC at 02:45 on 13 February 2019