

## Protect, care and invest to create a better borough

The Rt Hon Mr David Lammy MP Minister of State for Prisons, Probation and Reducing Offending 102 Petty France London SW1H9AJ

Lee.carter@telford.gov.uk

telford.gov.uk

facebook.com/TelfordWrekin

twitter.com /TelfordWrekin

01952 380103

Sent by email:-

david.lammy.mp@parliament.uk and ministerialcorrespondene@justice.gov.uk

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Dear Mr Lammy MP

## Parole Board consideration in respect of early release of Mr Ahdel Ali

I am writing to you as the Leader of Telford & Wrekin Council to ensure that this matter is one that you are aware of.

In 2012, Ahdel Ali was convicted for leading a notorious "child grooming gang". He, along with his brother Mubarek Ali are believed to have orchestrated the systematic abuse and exploitation of more than 100 schoolgirls within Telford over a three year period.

He was convicted of four charges of controlling child prostitution, two charges of trafficking in the UK for sexual exploitation and one charge of causing child prostitution. He was sentenced to 14 years' custody and 8 years on licence.

Mr Ali was initially released in 2020 but was recalled to prison within months after breaching his licence conditions.

It is understood that his case may shortly be subject to consideration by the Parole Board again to consider early release.

This would be a matter of serious concern for the residents of Telford & Wrekin and will cause much distress and alarm for his victims and their family members. It is clear that Ahdel Ali and his brother preyed on vulnerable young girls for many years without any regard for the impact this would have on them. One only needs to read the report of Tom Crowther KC, the Independent Chair of the Inquiry into CSE within Telford to understand the devastating impact his actions, and the actions of others like him have on our residents. That harrowing report is available at Telford & Wrekin Council | Independent Inquiry into Telford Child Sexual Exploitation (IITCSE).

His brother has since been convicted of further offences and was also recalled to prison after breaching his licence conditions.

Ahdel Ali was given an opportunity, in 2020, to demonstrate that he was able to lead a law-abiding life. Despite this, he clearly showed that he was unable to abide by the restrictions placed upon him. Since the publication of Tom Crowther's report into CSE in Telford, great strides have been made in tackling the horrendous crimes committed by Ahdel Ali and people like him, providing support to victims and survivors and moving on from Telford's past.

His release would undo some of that hard work and simply serve to reinforce the views of some that his victims (and others like them) do not deserve a voice. It would be a shame to perpetuate such a myth and so I am urging you to do everything that you can to ensure that he serves his full sentence in prison.

I would be more than happy to meet with you, and colleagues, to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely

**CIIr Lee Carter** 

Leader - Telford & Wrekin Council

cc. The Rt Hon the Lord Timpson