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Home Secretary

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Seema Malhotra MP
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CC: Lord Stephen Greenhalgh, Faith Minister

26th February 2021

Re: Car Rallies Planned for 27th Feb 2021

Thank you for your letter of 22nd February regarding the advertised car rallies in Southall, Leicester and Birmingham on 27th February, by a group calling itself 'Proud Indians'. I fully appreciate the concerns you raise regarding the potential impacts of such rallies on local communities, and the divisions and tensions that these types of protests could create.

My officials are in close contact with the National Police Coordination Centre and relevant police forces regarding this issue. Whilst it has not yet been possible to identify the specific individuals behind the advertised vehicle rallies, I have recently received information from the affected forces that the supposed organiser has indicated that they have cancelled their protest plans.

You will also be aware that across the Metropolitan Police Service, Leicestershire Police and West Midlands Police they have substantial policing plans in place in relation to these vehicle rallies. All three Police Forces have well-established links with their local Sikh communities and will remain in close contact with them to hear concerns and provide reassurance, for example through the Leicestershire Sikh Police Association.

I would like to reassure you that I am following this issue closely and continue to work the police on all matters associated with this issue.

With all good wishes

Rt Hon Priti Patel MP