



House of Commons
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SW1A 0AA

Sarah Champion
Member of Parliament for Rotherham

Immediate release
14 May 2014

Sarah takes action on EDL march

Following the EDL march that took place in Rotherham on May 10th, Sarah Champion MP has this week taken action to raise concerns about any similar future marches.

Sarah, who is the Member of Parliament for Rotherham, has written to Eric Pickles MP, the Minister for Communities and Local Government.

Sarah's letter raised concerns about the impact on local business owners of this and any future marches, and about the cost to the local community of policing marches. Sarah also asked Eric Pickles to consider greater powers for local authorities to intervene to restrict such events where there are concerns.

In her letter, Sarah argued: "Rotherham is rightly proud of its diverse, multicultural heritage and many residents are concerned that repeated and unwanted events held by organisations such as the EDL do severe damage to its strong intra-community relations. The local government, however, remains largely powerless to prevent this."

She commented: "Rotherham's diversity is something which should be celebrated, not driven out. The EDL march was not welcome here this weekend, yet despite strong opposition, the council were powerless to prevent it.

"I understand that the EDL have now said they are considering coming to Rotherham on a regular basis. This will cause suffering to our communities and the many business owners who lost much needed income on Saturday.

"I have written to Eric Pickles because he has the power to ask for the government to foot the bill rather than the local council and police, which is currently what happens. This is important, as the cost of policing marches like the EDL march has taken away from spending on much needed services."

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Notes to Editors

For further information about this press release please contact:

Dawn Elliott

Senior Parliamentary Assistant to Sarah Champion MP

Moorgate Crofts Business Centre

South Grove

Rotherham

S60 2DH

Telephone: 01709 331038

Email: dawn.elliott@parliament.uk

Website: www.sarahchampionmp.com