



Home Office

RACE EQUALITY UNIT

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Shiraz Durrani
18 Ranelagh Road
London
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Our Ref: REU/04/001/0040/001
23 September 2004

Dear Shiraz Durrani

Thank you for your email of 19 August 2004 to Fiona Mactaggart about the closure of the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) library. Your letter has been passed to this unit for reply, as the Race Equality Unit is the sponsoring unit for the CRE.

The CRE is a non-departmental public body that receives funding from the Home Office and is an independent statutory body entirely responsible for its day to day business. The Home Office's responsibility is to ensure that it complies with the 1976 Race Relations Act. The matter you raise is an operational matter for the CRE which will, I am sure, have carefully considered every option.

However, I understand that the CRE has closed the library to the public because reductions in its budget in recent years have meant that it has been limited in its ability to update its resources and ensure they are relevant to the changing focus of its work.

The CRE has also seen a decrease in visitors, both external and internal, to the library. It therefore plans to transfer its stocks to another library facility.

Yours sincerely

Ian Stewart
Core Support



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BUILDING A SAFE, JUST AND TOLERANT SOCIETY