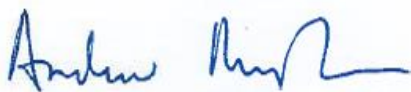


THE LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS: All
REPORT TITLE: Waiver of Six Month Councillor Attendance Rule	
REPORT OF: Borough Solicitor	
FOR SUBMISSION TO: Council	DATE: 14 th October 2024
<p>SUMMARY OF REPORT: Members are asked to agree an extension to the period of absence of a Member.</p> <p>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information There were no documents used in the preparation of this report which require listing.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Vicky Wemyss-Cooke Committee Services Town Hall Judd Street London WC1H 9JE Tel: 020 7974 5726 Email: vicky.wemyss-cooke@camden.gov.uk</p>	
<p>RECOMMENDATION:</p> <p>In accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, to agree to Councillor Nazma Rahman’s non-attendance at Council meetings up until the end of 2024 due to her family commitments in Bangladesh and as a result being unable to travel back to the UK.</p>	

Signed by:



Andrew Maughan
Borough Solicitor

Date: 2nd October 2024

1. Background

- 1.1 Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 states that 'if a member of a local authority fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of his last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority, he shall, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the authority'.
- 1.2 Qualifying meetings include full Council, any committee or sub-committee of the authority, or any meeting of a joint committee, joint body or other body by whom for the time being any functions of the authority are being discharged, or who were appointed to advise the authority on any matter relating to the discharge of their functions.
- 1.3 The Council may approve an extension of the period of absence beyond six months provided that the extension of granted before the six month period of absence has expired.

2. Current Situation

- 2.1 Councillor Nazma Rahman travelled to Bangladesh in the summer to visit family. Whilst there, she and her family were caught up in the recent political turmoil in the country. Her family came under direct threat of violence and went into hiding. This has made it extremely difficult for her to travel safely and to return to the UK.
- 2.3 The extension would not prevent Councillor Rahman from returning to meetings at any time should it become safe for her to travel and return to the UK, but this Council meeting presents the last opportunity to agree an extension prior to the expiration of the six months, should an extension be necessary.
- 2.4 Under the terms of the Members' Allowance Scheme, Councillor Rahman will continue to receive her basic allowance during her period of absence.

2. Legal Comments of the Borough Solicitor

- 2.1. This is a report of the Borough Solicitor and there are no further legal comments.

3. Finance Comments of the Executive Director Corporate Services

- 3.1. The Executive Director Corporate Services has no comments.

4. Environmental Implications

- 4.1 There are no environmental implications.

REPORT ENDS