



16 June 2021
י' תמוז תשפ"א

Rt. Hon. Matt Hancock MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.
Department of Health & Social Care
39 Victoria Street
LONDON
SW1H 0EU

Dear Mr Hancock,

I write to you on behalf of the Zionist Federation of the UK and Ireland. The Zionist Federation is made up of over 30 constituent organisations, representing approximately 50,000 people who all believe in celebrating and supporting Zionism and Israel. Included within our membership are many organisations involved with youth provision within the Jewish community. We write to you in support of their letter of 7 June requesting that you increase capacity for residential youth camps this summer.

Residential youth camps are a formative experience for thousands of young people not just within the Jewish community, but indeed across all of society. For families experiencing hardship these camps might be the only holiday a young person experience, often with their place free of charge or heavily subsidised by benefactors.

Camps enable young people to equip themselves with skills and knowledge that serve them well later in life. They empower them to grow and develop in a fun, safe and managed environment that has many mental health benefits. Many life-long friendships are formed at these events and often this is the first taste of independence away from parents/carers for a young person.

Under the current guidance the numbers permitted, 30 in a bubble, to attend these camps would mean that they simply would not be financially viable. This would mean that young people will have missed this vital part of their informal education and development for the second year in a row.

We implore you to work with the relevant bodies to ensure that our young people can once again enjoy the experience that only a residential youth camp can bring. With proper testing and sensible precautions, we are sure that residential youth camps can be run in a COVID-19 safe and secure manner and our young people can have the opportunity to really enjoy their summer.

Yours sincerely,

Richard P Woolf
Acting Chair

Zionist Federation of the UK & Ireland

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