

Dear Vishwesh ji

My apologies for the incomplete email sent a few moments ago.

Many thanks for your kindness in inquiring about the health of my family and myself in these difficult times. My apologies for the delay in replying.

With the grace of God, my family and I are all well and my best wishes for the health and well-being of all at the High Commission. We were all saddened by the death of Manjeet Singh Ryatt, a well-loved senior A&E Consultant in Derby. through Coronavirus. Like the hundreds of other doctors and health workers of Indian origin with the UK Health Service, his life was one of total dedication to the concept of seva or selfless service.

I would be grateful for your help and advice on an issue affecting Hindus and Sikhs in the lock-down. The BBC, recognizing that places of worship are now closed, has rightly made special provision for the broadcasting of services through local radio for Christians and Muslims. Unfortunately, they omitted to make any similar provision for Hindus and Sikhs. I raised this with the Mayor of London Sadiq Khan on 7th April, and he he promised to immediately address the anomaly. Direct complaints were also made to the BBC by Sikh and Hindu groups with little success. I find it sad that while Hindu and Sikhs are making an out of proportion contribution to the Health Service, no reciprocal effort is being made in this important area. We shall be grateful for your advice and support.

On a separate matter, you will be aware of the recent ISIS attack on the main Sikh gurdwara in Kabul and the killing of a number of worshipers. The Hindu and Sikh population in Afghanistan has declined from some 200,000 only a few years ago to less than 100 families fearful for their lives. Many have relatives in the UK who are willing to assist in their resettlement in the UK. Is there any way in which the Government of India could persuade the UK government to exercise compassion and relax the rule of resettlement in the nearest country, to allow these frightened and desperate people to join their kith and kin in the UK?

I shall be grateful for your valued advice and assistance on the two issues raised above. Meanwhile, thank you once again for your kindness in writing to me.

Kind regards

Indarjit

Lord Singh of Wimbledon CB,DL

Director of the Network of Sikh Organisations UK