

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

Report to: Full Council

Date: 21/05/2025

Subject: Dispensation of Absence

Report of: The Leader of the Council - Councillor Stephen Cowan

Report author: Kayode Adewumi, Assistant Director of Democratic, Registration and Coroner's Services

Responsible Director: Sukvinder Kalsi – Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Services

SUMMARY

This report seeks approval of a special dispensation to be granted to Councillor Alex Karmel for non-attendance at meetings of the authority due to ill health.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That a special dispensation be granted to Councillor Alex Karmel for non-attendance at meetings of the authority due to ill health pursuant to Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Wards Affected: All

Our Values	Summary of how this report aligns to the H&F Values
Doing things with residents and not to them	Councillors have a key community leadership role to represent all constituents within their wards.
Building shared prosperity	The participation of all Councillor members in decision making and community engagement activities is line with the Council's policies and priorities.

Financial Impact

The recommendations in this report have no direct financial impact.

Alex Pygram, Head of Finance, Corporate Services, 24/04/2025

Verified by Andre Mark, Head of Finance, Strategic Planning and Investment, 24/04/2025

Legal Implications

Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 makes provision in relation to member attendance at meetings. It provides that if a member fails to attend qualifying meetings for a period of six consecutive months from the date of their last attendance, they shall cease to be a member of the authority unless, before the expiry of that period the authority has approved such non-attendance.

Glen Egan, Assistant Director of Legal Services, 24/04/2025

Background Papers Used in Preparing This Report

None.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Proposals and Analysis of Options

1. Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 makes provision in relation to member attendance at meetings. It provides that if a member fails to attend qualifying meetings for a period of 6 consecutive months from the date of their last attendance, they shall cease to be a member of the authority unless, before the expiry of that period the authority has approved such non-attendance.
2. Councillor Karmel has not been able to attend a council meeting since the Licensing Sub-Committee meeting held on 11 December 2024 due to ill health.
3. To avoid disqualification, it would be reasonable to grant Councillor Karmel dispensation from non-attendance at meetings of the authority until he recovers and is able to attend meetings.

Consultation and Engagement

4. Both groups support this proposal.

Reasons for Decision

5. Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 makes provision in relation to member attendance at meetings. If a member fails to attend qualifying meetings for a period of 6 consecutive months from the date of their last attendance, they shall cease to be a member of the authority unless, before the expiry of that period the authority has approved such non-attendance.

Equality Implications

6. There are no anticipated negative implications for groups with protected characteristics, under the Equality Act 2010, by these proposals.