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Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

The Rt Hon John Spellar
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear John

Thank you for your letter of 4 July to the Foreign Secretary on behalf of your constituents about the attendance of Jagdish Tytler, KPS Gill, Sajjan Kumar and Sumedh Saini at the Olympic Games. I am replying as Minister responsible for our relations with India.

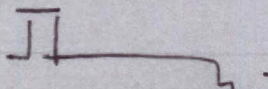
We are committed to ensuring the Olympic Games are a success, help strengthen the Olympic movement and enhance the reputation of the United Kingdom as an efficient host nation and an attractive place to visit. We welcome all legitimate visitors to the United Kingdom, including members of the Olympic and Paralympic Games Family.

On the specific question of accreditation we do not routinely comment on individual cases. Our policy is clear that accreditation shall be refused to any individual who may present a safety or security risk, where their presence at the Games or in the United Kingdom would not be conducive to the public good or if there is independent, reliable and credible evidence that they have committed human rights abuses.

I am aware of the level of concern in the Sikh community in Britain about the treatment of their fellow Sikhs in India. We note that in 2005 Indian Prime Minister Singh offered an apology for the 1984 massacre in Parliament during discussions on a new judicial inquiry into the violence. Whilst the Indian government has indicated that the events of 1984 will be looked into further, the British Government has no locus to intervene in India's judicial process.

However, we maintain a dialogue with Indian officials about minority rights issues generally in India, including with regards to the Sikh community. The UK is active in encouraging an improvement in the treatment of all minority communities in India. Our High Commission in New Delhi has discussed minority community issues with the Indian National Commission for Minorities and with various other State level authorities. Those discussions will continue. In addition, minority rights are among the issues raised via the annual EU/India Human Rights Dialogue which is due to take place soon.

Yours sincerely,



Jeremy Browne MP
Minister of State