



LINCOLNSHIRE POLICE

**Police Headquarters
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12th March 2015

Mr Jammil Ahmed
University of Lincoln Students' Union Islamic Society
University of Lincoln Students' Union
Brayford Pool
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Dear Jammil,

I would like begin by offering my congratulations to the University of Lincoln ISoc who have once again excelled themselves in respect of some of the outreach work carried out this academic year as well as charitable work - this year for the noble St Barnabas Lincolnshire Hospice charity.

I have the benefit of being in a position to chart the ISoc's progress from 2008 having been in dialogue and communication with various ISoc committees over the years. The progress that the ISoc has made within a relatively short period of time is nothing but staggering. From a small society in its formative years to the all-embracing and active group that it has now become.

There are two aspects of this year's Discover Islam Week that I would like to comment on, both of which involved myself and the Lincolnshire Police as an organisation. The first one relates to the dialogue and interaction that took place with the committee prior to the event, some of which centred around the proposed external speakers that would lecture on site during the week. The ISoc committee was very aware of its responsibilities around the deployment of external speakers on campus and of their requirement to adhere to the Student Union policy around this. This demonstrates a level of maturity as well as an understanding of the key role that they play in the promotion of moderate voices on campus, those voices that will encourage good wider community relations and not in any way drive a wedge between Muslims and those not of the Muslim faith.

The second aspect that I would like to comment on is the football tournament that was hosted by the ISoc as part of Discover Islam Week. The ISoc were keen to reach out to other sections of the wider community in particular the public services such as the Police, RAF, and the Fire Service as well as other statutory bodies such as the local Council, NHS Health and the Probation Service. The idea behind it was simple: to draw the services together under the banner of sport with a view to creating positive relationships, breaking down barriers and getting to know people and bodies outside of the confines of the University

campus. The tournament would also represent an opportunity for others to see Muslims in a different light, a positive light, an opportunity that many residing within Lincolnshire don't often get, due to the small Muslim population locally. The tournament would also raise money for the St Barnabas Hospice.

The ISoc, Police and the City of Lincoln Council worked collaboratively to organise an adults tournament as well as a youth tournament (under 9's) and the event which spanned most of the Saturday afternoon was overwhelmingly successful with teams from various sectors playing the tournament in a most sporting way! My only frustration was the ISoc Team winning yet another football tournament, how are a bunch of '40 somethings' like the Police able to compete with the young legs of students!

In summary, the ISoc continues its ascent as a group with significant gains having been made in recent years. The outreach work and charity work continues to grow with each passing academic year. I have no doubt that the ISoc will continue in its journey and will only get better and stronger and continue to be a credit to themselves and of benefit to the wider community of Lincoln.

Yours sincerely,

Riz Chothia

**Police Constable
Lincolnshire Police**