



## The Rt Hon Diane Abbott MP

Member of Parliament for Hackney North and Stoke Newington  
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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Alexander Barnes-Ross



Our Ref:   
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Dear Alexander,

Thank you for writing to me about Scientology and what you have faced since leaving the Church of Scientology. Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in responding to you.

I am very sorry to hear about the harassment you have faced since leaving the church, no-one should face such a horrific campaign of harassment. I want to commend you for speaking out publicly.

On the matter of harassment and potential criminal actions by members of the church, I regret that as your MP I am unable to provide you with legal advice regarding whether the hate videos or hacking attempts you describe would constitute a basis for legal action. On this issue I would advise you to consider seeking legal help if you have not done so already.

More broadly, I share your concerns about the legality of some of the actions described. As you have said, Scientology has a history of fraudulent activity internationally and other former Scientologists have also attested to the horrific treatment of former members.

I have written to HMRC, who brought the case against the Church of Scientology for ruling that their "chapel" was a place of worship, urging them to look again at options to appeal this decision and also to more broadly investigate the churches finances for fraudulent activity. I will share with you any response I receive.

Thank you again for contacting me about this important matter. If you would like to learn more about what I do in Parliament, please feel free to visit [www.dianeabbott.org.uk](http://www.dianeabbott.org.uk)

Yours sincerely,

**Rt Hon Diane Abbott MP**  
**Member of Parliament for Hackney North and Stoke Newington**