



Likud-Herut UK

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Vivian Wineman – President
The Board of Deputies of British Jews
6 Bloomsbury Square
London WC1A 2LP

7th December 2009

Dear Mr Wineman,

Laurence Brass, continues to abuse his position and the trust of the Jewish community which the Board claims to represent.

In an interview on BBC Radio Manchester, on November 30th, he was asked what his ambitions were as a member of the Board. Brass replied that he did not consider his position as treasurer limited him to matters of finance and that he wants to 'steer the Board into a new political direction'. After repeating his mantra that *'the Board should not be seen as an extension of the Israeli embassy'*, he said he would like to see the settlement freeze extended to Jerusalem.

This is an outrage, and totally incompatible with the Board's role and constitution.

The Board was never intended to be a political organisation and its officers should not be pontificating in this way when representing the Board and presuming to 'deputise' for Jews in this country. As a lifelong member of the Anglo-Jewish community I feel personally offended by his comments, and I daresay this goes for many others too.

Your rules expressly state that no Board member is authorised to make statements to the media without your approval. Having been so effusive with his opinions in the few short months since his election, Mr Brass should have rung alarm bells with you and your colleagues before this. He must be instructed to desist from making statements outside his remit as treasurer. If he will not undertake to do this, he must be dismissed.

In the same interview, Brass boasts of having the ear of Liberal Democrat Party leader Nick Clegg as an 'advisor on Middle East affairs'. Whilst I shudder to think what damage he may be doing in that role, it is only a question of time before Brass graduates from BBC Manchester to the Guardian and Question Time.

Your role and duty is to ensure that does not happen – either in our community's name or the Board's.

I ask you to put a stop to this now.

Sincerely,

Zalmi Unsdrofer
Chairman