

Zoë Garbett
Mayor of Hackney
London Borough of Hackney
Hackney Town Hall
Mare Street
Hackney
London
E8 1EA

Sent via email
Mayor@haifa.muni.il

mayor@hackney.gov.uk

30 July 2026

Dear Mayor Yahav,

Twinning Relationship between the London Borough of Hackney and the City of Haifa

I am writing to issue an apology regarding a significant error in my recent letter concerning the review of Hackney's twinning relationship with the City of Haifa.

In that letter, you were invited to submit views on the proposal by 7th October 2026. I want to clarify that the inclusion of this date was a deeply regretful oversight. I am aware that the 7th October marks the anniversary of the horrific Hamas terrorist attacks, a day that carries profound grief and distress for many.

In preparing the engagement timeline, officers extended the standard engagement period to ten weeks (to the day) to ensure it did not close during the Jewish holidays in September. However, in selecting a ten week engagement period to navigate the religious calendar, officers failed to recognise the significance of the 7th October date itself.



As Mayor, I take full responsibility for the correspondence issued under my name. Overlooking the significance of this date was insensitive and a serious mistake, and for this, I offer my sincere apologies.

To rectify this error, the deadline for all interested parties to submit views and representations has been extended. I would be grateful to receive any representations from your office by 14th October.

I have copied Martin Sugarman, Chair of the Hackney Anglo-Israeli Friendship Association, into this letter for his information, as with our previous correspondence.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Zoë Garbett', with a stylized, flowing script.

Zoë Garbett
Mayor of Hackney