

THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE ERUV COMMITTEE



	FAX MESSAGE
TO	Laurence Begner
FROM	David Schreiber
SUBJECT	Chief Rabbi Sack's evidence
DATE	Monday 25th October

Graham and I have been thinking through the evidence we need from the Chief Rabbi in the light of Lord J's proof. It seems to us that we need a short, authoritative set of statements that would complement Lord J's and speak to a number of points that are bound to come out.

I suggest that you look them through, ammend as you see fit and then send it to Kestenbaum straight away on the basis that now that we have the other proofs in hand we can identify clearly what we need the CR to say. The logic is that whereas Lord J can afford to be rambly and philosophical, the CR is the present authority and can rule succintly on a lot of the points raised in challenge to him over the last months and undoubtably in the appeal.

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Committee

Laurence Begner, Brian Berenblut, Edward Black, Joe Bloomberg, David Cohen, Daniel Drukarz, Alfie Frei, Jeremy Hershkorn, Michael Goldblatt, David Marriott, Graham S Morns, Mark Moss, Michael Posen, David Schreiber, Syma Weinberg, Michael Weinstein

Rabbinic Panel

Rabbi Isaac Bernstein (Finchley), Dayan Ivan Binstock (Golders Green), Rabbi Edward Jackson (Hamstead Garden Suburb), Rabbi Alan Kimche (Ner Yisrael), Rabbi Sidney Silberg (Hendon)

Supervisory Authority

Chief Rabbi Dr. Jonathan Sacks, Dayan Chanoch Ehrentreu, Head of the London Beth Din

United Synagogue Liaison

Elkan Levy (Honorary Officer)

Technical Officer Alan Perrin B.Sc.

- I was the Rabbi of the United Synagogue serving the Golders Green community from [] to [].
- I have been Chief Rabbi of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth since [].
- I took over the commitment to the Eruv initiated under the encumbancy of my predecesor, Lord J.
- As Chief Rabbi I am the ecclesiastic authority of the United Synagogue.
- In practice that authority is excercised through the London Beth Din - Court of the Chief Rabbi.
- Dayan Erhentreu is head of the Beth Din.
- Dayan Ehrentreu has taken a detailed interest in every halachic aspect of the eruv.
- This is the certificate issued by the Beth Din approving the eruv.
- The restrictions on carrying, pushing wheelchairs etc on the sabbath only apply where an eruv is not in place.
- There is a positive injunction for communities to provide an eruv where halachically appropriate.
- There is no other form of 'dispensation' in Jewish law.
- The existence of an eruv does not mark a 'ghetto'. A ghetto was a forced concentration of Jews, in Nazi occupied Europe in preparation for deportation and slaughter and any reference to it in this connection is entirely inappropriate and offensive.
- Suggestions such as the use of the M25 are not halachically acceptable.
- The poles and wires of an eruv are, of themselves, not religious items. They serve simply as practical boundary markers, symbolically spanning gaps in the natural perimeter.