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UNITED SYNAGOGUE

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OFFICE HOURS:
MON-THUR 9.00am to 5.00pm

Finchley Synagogue

Mr. David Bushby, Planning Inspector
The Eruv Appeal, Barnet Town Hall
The Burroughs
London NW4

9th December 1993

Dear Sir,

I have been asked to comment on the question of need within my community for the proposed NW London Eruv.

This community comprises some 1,500 households, as reported by the last Board of Deputies survey, representing about 5,000 individuals. I have studied and am familiar with the Kalms Report and I understand that its statistics on observance have been quoted in estimating those who will directly benefit from the eruv. I would caution that this, in the case of Finchley and, I suspect, the other United Synagogues in North West London, would be most misleading. No firm statistics are available as we welcome all who come to services but my best judgement would be that at least 25% or 375 families, representing over 1,100 people in the Finchley community, need and would gain direct benefit from the eruv.

For some members who are disabled, frail or who are housebound as a result of having children too young to walk to synagogue, the eruv would make an absolute difference between being able to come to synagogue or not.

Yours sincerely,

Rabbi Isaac Bernstein