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Dear Mr McKee

Petition to twin with Gaza City

Since our letter of 25 March 2022, our attention has been drawn to a standard form letter which those promoting the petition have encouraged residents and others to send to Councillors, posted at <https://www.twingaza.com/what-you-can-do/#Cllr-letter>.

The letter's claim that "Gaza Municipal Councillors are quite separate from Hamas" is untrue. Gaza City's Mayor, whom the letter cites as welcoming a relationship with Edinburgh, was appointed by Hamas:

<https://english.aawsat.com/home/article/1836121/hamas-appointing-municipal-administrations-gaza-sparks-controversy>, as was the rest of the Gaza City Council: <https://tinyurl.com/Gaza-Council> (in Arabic but can be translated using Google translate).

The same applies to other Councils in the Gaza Strip:

<https://www.independentarabia.com/node/128426/-/الأخبار/العالم-العربي/حماس-تشكل-مجالس-البلديات-في-غزة-بالتعيين>

Most of the rest of the letter is also untrue. Indeed, the exploitation of the petition to circulate false allegations against Israel highlights why careful attention needs to be paid by the Council to the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Turner
Chief Executive

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