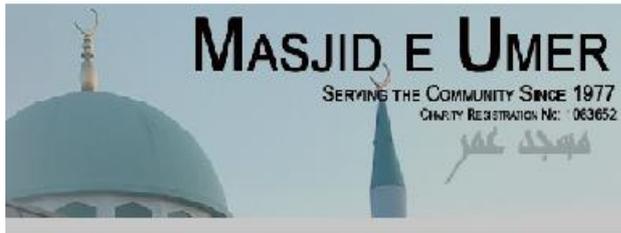


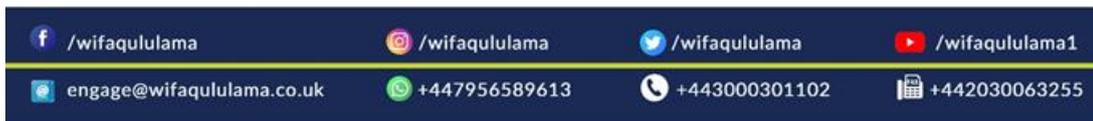
# UK Moonsighting Policy: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)



ROCHDALE COUNCIL  
OF MOSQUES



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## THE WAY FORWARD: MOONSIGHTING POLICY FOR THE UK

We will always aim to ensure that the new *Islāmic* month declarations are conducted correctly based on our *Islāmic* teachings AND in conjunction with astronomical calculations in order to determine the correct dates for each *Islāmic* Month.

*All 12 months of the Islāmic calendar are subject to (physical) moon sighting. Astronomical calculations can be used to assist in the process of moon sighting and declarations of moon sighting. However, calculations cannot be used exclusively to determine the starting or ending of the Islāmic months.*

It is *Fardh alal kifayah* (communal obligation) to sight the Crescent moon. Therefore, we assert that all efforts will be made to sight it in United Kingdom on the 29<sup>th</sup> of each Islamic month. We will coordinate and share moonsighting data and verifiable actual moonsighting news to determine the dates for each *Islāmic* month. If it is not sighted in the UK, we will rely upon credible and verifiable moonsighting news from Morocco or South Africa and share information as needed and as necessary.

*The Crescent needs to be sighted after sunset on the 29<sup>th</sup> of every Islamic Month. Therefore, final announcements for the starting or ending of Islāmic months cannot be made before sunset.*

As according to the *Sunnah* we are and will instigate local sighting for every month, and this will continue to be, our priority. There are some initiatives in place to make this more successful and as a result will impact on decisions as we develop this area with our MOU partners. We have numerous official moonsighting hubs and centres throughout the UK and have links with the key leading observatories and experts. This moonsighting culture will be actively promoted and will aim to enhance this over the years.

As part of our collective ongoing research/monitoring of moonsighting systems in other Countries we have developed a traffic light system. Some of the organisations listed in this MOU have taken sighting reports from UK, Morocco and/or South Africa but organisations like Wifaqul Ulama have bilateral agreements with numerous other countries, they are; France, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Reunion, Panama and North America. The bilateral agreements with countries west of United Kingdom (i.e. countries in the Caribbean, South, Central and North America) are only for informational purposes and are not used for the determination of *Islāmic* months due to time differences.

# GLOBAL LUNAR RADAR SYSTEM FOR *UNITED KINGDOM*

A global lunar radar system is in place in which the world moonsighting committees of the world are participants, such as: New Zealand, Australia, India, Pakistan, Reunion, Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Nigeria, Morocco, Panama, Chile, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Grenada, Columbia and North America. Other Countries will be added to the list. We will utilise this network to develop our understanding of the moon sighting systems of the world and their announcement for each Islamic Month. This system allows us to anticipate expected moon sightings and confirm the accuracy of moon sightings from west of Britain.

The countries shown in green have been agreed with regards to the declaration of *Dhū al-Hijja* (1440) only.

## Committees of countries from whom we can accept news

1. United Kingdom
2. Morocco
3. South Africa

## Committees of countries currently under review/monitoring

1. Reunion
2. Mauritius
3. Zambia
4. Zimbabwe
5. Malawi
6. Mozambique
7. Botswana
8. Gambia
9. Senegal
10. Tanzania
11. Nigeria

Reunion, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi have robust demonstrable twelve monthly Moonsighting systems which have been monitored by *Wifaqul Ulama* over a considerable period of time and verified. The research into other countries and the robustness of their systems is still being conducted and further recommendations are not possible at this time.

1. France
2. Spain
3. Netherlands

## KEY CONTACTS

1. **Noor TV:** Peer Noor ul Arifeen Sidiquee (Head of Noor TV, Royat e Hilal Borad) 0121-551 5700
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# TRAFFIC LIGHT SYSTEM

