



**TEES VALLEY MAYOR**  
**BEN HOUCHEN**

**Ben Houchen**  
Tees Valley Mayor  
Cavendish House  
Teesdale Business Park  
Stockton-on-Tees  
TS17 6QY

**Mr Andy Burnham**  
Mayor of Greater Manchester  
Churchgate House  
56 Oxford Street  
Manchester  
M1 6EU

**24 May 2017**

*Dear Mr. Burnham,*

On behalf of the people of the Tees Valley I am writing to express our sympathy and solidarity, following the terrible and cowardly attack on Monday evening.

I want to offer my condolences to the people of Manchester, and to all those families affected by the terrible events experienced at their Arena. This was a barbaric and evil act, and every parent will feel hurt in their heart at the targeting of innocent children.

Terrorism can happen anywhere. The proud city of Manchester expressed the best possible response the people of the North of England can offer. You have come together to defy those who wish us harm, and we stand shoulder to shoulder with you. The local emergency services responded quickly, and with skill and courage. And the demonstration of common humanity from across the nation and the world, shows clearly that we will not be intimidated.

I regret that the first communication between us as newly elected mayors is in response to such a tragic event. I look forward to working with you in the future in more positive circumstances, to enhance collaboration across the North of England on our shared commitments, and I wish you every success in your new role.

*Sincerely*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ben Houchen', written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

**Mr Ben Houchen**  
Tees Valley Mayor

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