

Dr Peter Gates
10 Belfry Way, Edwalton, Nottingham, NG12 4FA
Tel: 0115 945 2550 Mobile: 0773 0808 353
email : peter.gates3@btopenworld.com

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**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018**

Iain McNicol  
General Secretary  
Labour Party Central  
Kings Manor  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE1 6PA

Cc Martin Lee, Solicitor

Dear Mr McNicol,

**Information rights concern – Peter Gates Membership number A751876**

I am concerned that the Labour Party have not handled my personal information properly. I submitted a Subject Access Request in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 (“DPA 1998”) and followed procedures outlined by the **Office of the Information Commissioner**. My letters to the Labour Party requesting this are attached (**21<sup>st</sup> September 2016, 11<sup>th</sup> October 2016, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2016, 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016**). After forty-one days, I received forty-seven pages which I have also attached. The letter from Mike Creighton says this contains “*all information that relates to you that is held by the Labour Party*”, and that is patently not true. I have also attached my letter of the **4<sup>th</sup> November 2016** in which I pointed out the information I received was incomplete and requesting the missing information. After 15 months I still have not received a reply or even an acknowledgment to that letter – I accept that patience is a virtue, but this is now reaching a stage of intransigence.

What is especially worrying is that in the material supplied by the Labour Party, there is *no* record of any communication with *me*, particularly over a number of issues that I personally have record of. Specifically, there is no record of:

- Any communication with Finbar Bowie, Regional Officer, over the Rushcliffe CLP members’ Workshop on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2015.
- Any communication with Finbar Bowie over my resignation as CLP Secretary on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2015.
- Any reference to my complaint over the bullying, intimidation and harassment by the Chair of the CLP at the November 2015 GC meeting that I reported to Finbar Bowie.
- Any correspondence with Finbar Bowie over the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016 Rushcliffe CLP meeting.
- Any reference to, correspondence about, and most importantly notes of my meeting with Gordon Pattison, then Regional Director, in June 2016 and subsequent actions by Gordon Pattison.
- Any communication I had with Labour Party Officials which I had over the suspension of 10 officers of Rushcliffe CLP in March 2016.

What is very worrying is the material provided to me contains no complaint made *against* me other than an obscure reference to a complaint in one email dated **19<sup>th</sup> January 2016**.

All of this suggests there is a failure to comply with the DPA 1998. It is almost as if the material has been carefully selected to give a one-sided negative impression of me by omission of significant material the Party holds on me. The information missing documents the hostile and

intimidatory treatment I received at the hands of the Rushcliffe CLP Chair between September and November 2015, and the advice I received from Finbar Bowie, in his role as representative of East Midlands Labour Party, in response to my complaint which was to deal with disputes locally.

I have reported this to Ann Black, Christine Shawcroft (as Chairs of the NEC Disputes Panel), Andy Kerr (as Chair of the NEC) and Jane Shaw (as Secretary of the NCC), on **15<sup>th</sup> January 2018**, but have as of yet received no reply.

I am sure you will be concerned at this transgression and omission, and will do all you can to resolve the matter amicably. It would be inconceivable for a Party committed to equity and social justice to behave in this way as a matter of policy and practice.

I understand that before reporting my concern to the **Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)** I should give you the chance to deal with it. If, when I receive your response, I would still like to report my concern to the ICO, I will give them a copy of it to consider.

You can find guidance on your obligations under information rights legislation on the ICO's website ([www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)) as well as information on their regulatory powers and the action they can take.

Please send a full response within 28 calendar days of receipt of this letter. If you cannot respond within that timescale, I would appreciate it if you could please tell me when you will be able to respond and why there is a delay.

If there is anything you would like to discuss, please contact me by email on [peter.gates3@btopenworld.com](mailto:peter.gates3@btopenworld.com).

In the meantime, can I wish you the very best in your future endeavours.

Yours sincerely

**Peter Gates**  
**10 Belfry Way, Edwalton, Nottingham, NG12 4FA**  
Tel: 0115 945 2550      Mobile: 0773 0808 353  
email : peter.gates3@btopenworld.com

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21<sup>st</sup> September 2016

Data Controller  
The Labour Party  
Labour Party Headquarters  
Labour Central, Kings Manor  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 6PA

Dear Sirs,

**Data subject access request under Section 7 Data Protection Act 1998**

**Data Subject: Peter Gates, 10 Belfry Way, Nottingham NG12 4FA**

I am writing to make a **data subject access request** under **Section 7 of the Data Protection Act 1998**.

**Scope of my request**

As the data controller of the Labour Party, you hold and process personal data of which **Peter Gates** is the subject. Please provide me with all of the information to which I am entitled to under the Data Protection Act 1998 in relation to Peter Gates.

**Details of the information data subject requires**

All letters, reports, emails, internal memorandums, notes of meetings, and telephone attendance notes, relating to Peter Gates and membership records. The information to be backdated from **8 May 2015**.

**Information to supply**

Once you have identified personal data within the scope of this request, please provide a copy of the information constituting personal data and also:

- Provide a description of the data.
- Explain the purposes for which the data is processed.
- Identify the source or sources of the data.
- Set out to whom the data has been disclosed or may be disclosed.

**Fee and identification**

I enclose a cheque for £10 in respect of the maximum prescribed fee together with a copy of driving licence/passport to confirm my identity.

I look forward to hearing from you in relation to the above within the statutory time limit of **40 calendar days from the date of receipt of this request**.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Gates

**Peter Gates**  
**10 Belfry Way, Edwalton, Nottingham, NG12 4FA**  
Tel: 0115 945 2550      Mobile: 0773 0808 353  
email : peter.gates92@btopenworld.com

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11<sup>th</sup> October 2016

Data Controller  
The Labour Party  
Labour Party Headquarters  
Labour Central, Kings Manor  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 6PA

Dear Sirs,

**Data subject access request under Section 7 Data Protection Act 1998**

**Data Subject: Peter Gates, 10 Belfry Way, Nottingham NG12 4FA**

I wrote to you on **21<sup>st</sup> September 2016** to make a **data subject access request** under **Section 7 of the Data Protection Act 1998**.

I indicated to you in this letter the scope of my request, the details of the information required, and provided you a cheque for £10 in respect of the maximum prescribed fee together with a copy of my driving license and passport to confirm my identity.

The statutory time limit for this request is 40 calendar days from the date of receipt of this request. You received this on 23<sup>rd</sup> September – please see enclosed information from the Post Office.

It is now 20 days from receipt and I have yet to receive an acknowledgement from you of the receipt of my request or any information of the date of delivery of the material. My postal and email address is above.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

|

Peter Gates

**Peter Gates**  
**10 Belfry Way, Edwalton, Nottingham, NG12 4FA**  
Tel: 0115 945 2550      Mobile: 0773 0808 363  
email : peter.gates@btopenworld.com

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22<sup>nd</sup> October 2016

Data Controller  
The Labour Party  
Labour Party Headquarters  
Labour Central, Kings Manor  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 6PA

Dear Sirs,

**Data subject access request under Section 7 Data Protection Act 1998**

**Data Subject: Peter Gates, 10 Belfry Way, Nottingham NG12 4FA**

I wrote to you on **21<sup>st</sup> September 2016** to make a **data subject access request** under **Section 7 of the Data Protection Act 1998**. I further write to you on **10<sup>th</sup> October 2016** asking for acknowledgment of my SAR. It is now 30 days from your receiving my request. I have yet to receive an acknowledgement from you of the receipt of my request or any information of the date of delivery of the material. By law you have a further 10 days to provide the information. The legal requirement of 40 days expires on **1<sup>st</sup> November**. I have enclosed again all copies of documentation.

If I do not receive a response within that timescale laid down, I have been advised I will have no option, but to report this matter to the **Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)**. Advice is on the ICO's website on how to deal with a subject access request [[ico.org.uk/sar](http://ico.org.uk/sar)] and information on their powers and the action they can take [[ico.org.uk/action](http://ico.org.uk/action)]. You may wish to refer to <https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/personal-information/>.

There are several rights laid down in the Data Protection Act which I believe are relevant to my situation, these are:

1. A right of access to a copy of the information comprised in their personal data;
2. A right to object to processing that is likely to cause or is causing damage or distress;
3. A right in certain circumstances to have inaccurate personal data rectified, blocked, erased or destroyed;
4. A right to claim compensation for damages caused by a breach of the Act.

I would want you to be aware that I have now been suspended from the Party since 11<sup>th</sup> March 2016 with no indication of the reasons, in spite of my making requests for information. No one in the party, either Locally, Regionally or Nationally can tell me the reasons. This is not merely damaging the reputation of the Party but is also damaging my own reputation and causing me and my family reputational damage and distress. I can only believe this decision was made as a result of inaccurate personal data for which I may be entitled to compensation.

I indicated to you in my letter on 21<sup>st</sup> September the scope of my request, the details of the information required, and provided you a cheque for £10 in respect of the maximum prescribed fee together with a copy of my driving license and passport to confirm my identity.

If there is anything you would like to discuss, please contact me on the phone number, postal address or email address given above.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

Peter Gates

**Peter Gates**  
**10 Belfry Way, Edwalton, Nottingham, NG12 4FA**  
Tel: 0115 945 2550      Mobile: 0773 0808 353  
email : [peter.gates52@btopenworld.com](mailto:peter.gates52@btopenworld.com)

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4th November 2016

Data Controller  
The Labour Party  
Labour Party Headquarters  
Labour Central, Kings Manor  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 6PA

Mike Creighton  
Labour Party Head Office  
Southside  
105 Victoria Street  
London SW1E 6QT

Dear Sirs,

**Subject Access Request under Section 7 Data Protection Act 1998**

**Data Subject: Peter Gates, 10 Belfry Way, Nottingham NG12 4FA**

Thank you for the information provided under my **data subject access request** under **Section 7 of the Data Protection Act 1998**. Your covering letter makes it clear that you are legally required to provide me with my personal data. You provided me with 47 pages. However, on page 29 (enclosed) it is clear you have further data on me which you have not provided. An email dated 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016, Subject "Rushcliffe" talks of "*the complaint which has been received...about two other members - ??? and Peter Gates...*" This was indeed the only information I was looking for since I believe said complaints have been fabricated.

I would be grateful if you could provide me with the information requested, whose omission may have been an oversight.

Advice is on the ICO's website on how to deal with a subject access request [[ico.org.uk/sar](http://ico.org.uk/sar)] and information on their powers and the action they can take [[ico.org.uk/action](http://ico.org.uk/action)]. You may wish to refer to <https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/personal-information/> or get information on their powers and the action they can take [[ico.org.uk/action](http://ico.org.uk/action)] or call them on 0303 123 1113.

If there is anything you would like to discuss, please contact me on the following telephone number - 0773 0808 353.

Yours faithfully

Peter Gates

Dr Peter Gates  
10 Belfry Way, Edwalton, Nottingham, NG12 4FA  
Tel: 0115 945 2550      Mobile: 0773 0808 353  
email : peter.gates3@btopenworld.com

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Friday 23rd March 2018

Jennie Formby
General Secretary
Labour Party Central
Kings Manor
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 6PA

Cc Martin Lee, Solicitor

Dear Jennie,

Information rights concern – Peter Gates Membership number A751876

Can I first of all say very sincere congratulations on your new role as General Secretary. I was genuinely very pleased at your appointment and look forward to the future of the Party under your stewardship.

It is with a heavy heart therefore that this first communication needs to be a somewhat sombre letter and I am hoping that you might be able to help. It is possible Chris Williamson might talk to you about my case, but here isn't the place for a full account of the matters behind my suspension from the Labour Party in March 2016.

I think you might have already received the legal Letter of Claim from my Solicitor that originally went to Iain – a step I have been very reluctant to take. I still hope at this late stage to avoid taking any such an action. However, there have been several serious transgressions including potential fabrication of evidence, falsification of documents as well as attempts to pervert the course of justice. No doubt this will come across your desk in due course. This letter is about a very specific aspect of those transgressions – a breach of the Data Protection Act in preparing a Subject Access Request.

You will see from the attached, a recent communication I had with Iain McNicol over some serious Data Protection issues. I have yet received neither reply nor acknowledgement from Iain and his email bounce back now instructs me to contact you. I would be grateful though if you might look into it once you find your feet!

Congratulations again.

Best Wishes,

Peter Gates

Dr Peter Gates
10 Belfry Way, Edwalton, Nottingham, NG12 4FA
Tel: 0115 945 2550 Mobile: 0773 0808 353
email : peter.gates3@btopenworld.com

Tuesday 30th October 2018

Jennie Formby
General Secretary
Labour Party Central
Kings Manor
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 6PA

Tim Dexter
Complaints Officer
Southside
105 Victoria St
Westminster
London SW1E 6QT

Cc Martin Lee, Solicitor, Keir Chewings, Chair Rushcliffe CLP, Marc Gibson, Chair West Bridgford BLP, Office of the Information Commissioner, Umaar Kazmi

Dear Jennie, (cc Tim Dexter)

Information rights concern – Peter Gates Membership number A751876

I wrote to you last on 23rd March, some **7 months** ago and I have still not had either an acknowledgement or a reply to that letter. I do have to say how disappointed I am. I thought on your appointment that things were changing for the better. It gives me no pleasure writing this further letter, but I have come to the end of my patience really. In that letter (attached) I pointed out that the Labour Party had breached the Data Protection Act in selectively removing items from my Subject Access Request in November 2016. I raised this with Mike Creighton on **4th November 2016**, and again with Iain McNicol on **2nd March 2018** some **15 months later**. All relevant correspondence is attached.

I contacted the Information Commissioner to complain about the failure of the Party to provide the information it was legally required to do and further that it refused to respond to my complaints. They have advised me to contact you once more before raising an official complaint with the ICO. It appears they are worryingly over-run with complaints about the Labour Party, but appear to be compiling a dossier. It now appears to me that members get routinely ignored when requesting adherence to Party Rules - which is a source of considerable frustration and sadness; many members in my CLP have failed to even get an acknowledgement or response from the Party – usually the office of the General Secretary - to serious issues and complaints. It is of course possible you may be unaware of this which raises more serious questions. In this letter I raise three issues.

1. A complaint over the failure of the Labour Party to adhere to the DPA and provide information it is legally required to do, and to have systematically ignored my request for this to be put right;
2. A further SAR request for my data, which the data protection law requires you to respond to within one calendar month;
3. A formal complaint of on-line abuse under the Party's Bullying and Harassment Guidelines and Social Media guidelines.

So, I am writing to you in your role as Data Controller to request two things in accordance with the DPA, and have copied in Tim Dexter in order to action the third, a formal complaint. For your convenience I have placed each issue on a separate page. I trust you will ensure these are all looked into as they potentially bring the Party into disrepute. I do hope this can be resolved professionally and speedily. It is in no one's interest for this to be further protracted.

Request No. 1 – Fulfilment of Requirement of the DPA for Original SAR

First, I am concerned that you have not handled my personal information properly and over a protracted period of time have refused to respond to my very reasonable requests to resolve this matter. Further obfuscation will be passed to my solicitor.

I require you to provide all the materials that were removed from my SAR back in November 2017. This is significant because it will I believe demonstrate that the decision to suspend me in March 2016 was contrary to Labour Party Rules, natural justice and basic decency. Some of the missing information is included in my letter to Iain McNicol (attached). I believe it is very clear that a decision was taken centrally to remove material specifically in order to provide a false account to support moves to remove party members by those in the Party opposed to the leadership.

I submitted the original Subject Access Request in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 ("DPA 1998") in order to try to find the reasons for my suspension and followed procedures outlined by the Office of the Information Commissioner. After forty-one days, I received forty-seven pages. What is especially worrying is that in the material supplied by the Labour Party, there is *no record of any communication with me*, particularly over issues I have fully documented in my Response to the unsubstantiated and mendacious allegations made against me. Specifically, for example, there is no record of:

- communication with Finbar Bowie over the Members' Workshop;
- communication over my resignation as CLP Secretary on 16th November 2015;
- my complaint over the November 2015 GC meeting;
- correspondence with Finbar Bowie over the 7th March 2016 meeting;
- my meeting with Gordon Pattison in June 2016 and subsequent actions.

What is very worrying is the material provided contains **no complaint made against me** other than an unclear reference to a complaint in one email dated **19th January 2016**. All of this suggests a failure to comply with the DPA 1998 and an attempt to cover up the impropriety by Party Officers at Regional level. It is almost as if the material has been carefully selected to give a one-sided negative impression of me by omission of significant material the Party holds on me, and which documents the hostile treatment I received, and the advice I received in response to my complaint: to deal with disputes locally.

Please see following pages in which I made my original SAR request, plus follow up request to provide the information that has been deliberately removed. By this I do not mean that which is reasonably redacted to protect the identity of others. I refer to all communication that would have related to my suspension including communication between complainants and the regional Office, and with the Secretary of the NCC. If there is no such correspondence it will demonstrate the irregularity of the suspension.

Please action this within 7 days of receipt of this registered letter or inform me why this will not be possible so I may inform the Office of the Information Commissioner. I have already initiated a complaint with the ICO and this re-request for data that was illegally withheld is part of that process. To clarify, I require all information the Party holds on me and which could provide justification for my suspension. If this is not available it follows my suspension was contrary to Party Rules and should be rescinded.

Request No. 2 – Fulfilment of Requirement of the DPA for a new SAR

Second, I appeared before a “*Disciplinary Panel*” of the National Constitutional Committee on 9/10 June 2018. Suspiciously, no record of this event was permitted, because, I believe, this would have demonstrated very serious breaches of Party Rules and protocol, and a lack of professionalism and justice.

Under this SAR:

- I require the Party to disclose all notes made by the Panel Members whether in their own notebooks or as side notes to their copies of the Charges Pack or my Response Document prior to and during the panel hearing.
- I require disclosure of all communication between the Chair and members of the Panel and the secretary to the NCC, Jane Shaw.
- I require minutes of meetings of any body of the NEC when my case was discussed.
- I require disclosure of any communications where I am mentioned between officers of the Party, particularly generated by the Legal and Governance Unit.
- I require disclosure of information as to how the NEC through its Regional Office claims it came into possession of a copy of a private email relied upon by the NEC to prosecute the case against me.

I understand that this second SAR will constitute a new SAR request and will be subject to the normal time limits for responding to data protection rights requests of one calendar month (<https://ico.org.uk/your-data-matters/time-limits-for-responding-to-data-protection-rights-requests/>). I look forward to receiving the information by December 2018.

Request No. 3 – Complaint of Online Abuse

Thirdly, I wish to make a formal complaint over abuse and on-line bullying. I understand complaints have already been made by the Chair of West Bridgford Labour Party Branch (Marc Gibson) and a Party member (Dr Ben Gray). It is very clear that there has been collusion somewhere at the level of East Midlands Regional Office, the Complaints Department and the perpetrators of the abuse because as soon as the perpetrators found out complaints has been made by Dr Gray, the post was removed. I have screenshots however and have provided these below. Whilst it is appropriate that perpetrators of abuse should remove the unacceptable material, in this case, a complaint to force them to do so should not have been necessary in the first place. I am not aware of any apology that has been offered to the victim of the abuse, Umaar Kazmi, a young activist and Secretary of West Bridgford Branch. However, removal of the offending material does not eradicate the offence – especially when there has been no attempt at a public apology. Abuse, bullying and intimidation against members should never be countenanced not tolerated by the Party without disciplinary action, especially where documented evidence of that abuse has been provided to the party as herein. The individual this refers to is Richard Oliver, a member of the East Midlands Regional Board, since the abuse took place on his Facebook profile and as a response to a post he made. The others who made specific abusive comments are:

- **Dom Anderson**, a Labour Councillor in Derby;
- **Andy Furlong**, who was previously the Chair of the East Midland Regional Board.
- **Ravi Subramanian**, a party member who I understand is married to Lilian Greenwood MP. (I raise this since I believe individuals in such a position of responsibility have a duty to behave beyond reproach).

There is an additional comment by Georgia Power, a Councillor in Nottingham City which illustrates the way that bullying takes place by recruiting others to one's cause to intimidate; this is a classic example of how bullying left unresolved exacerbates. I attach screenshots of the specific posts which I believe were abusive and, in my view, contravene **Chapter 2 Clause 1 Section 8** of the Labour Party rule book:

No member of the Party shall engage in conduct which in the opinion of the NEC is prejudicial, or in any act which in the opinion of the NEC is grossly detrimental to the Party

I feel it is to the credit of both Chris Williamson and Umaar Kazmi that they have kept a professional and responsible silence during this adolescent macho exchange between the individuals involved. This abuse is particularly inappropriate by two of these individuals (Andy Furlong and Richard Oliver) as they were both recently responsible for pursuing fabricated accusations made against me involving spurious claims of abusive behaviour and intimidation, charges which remain unproven in the view of the CLP. It is particularly offensive to see one of these same men (Richard Oliver) countenancing and taking part in abuse and intimidation against one of our promising and committed young activists – *and who acted as a witness in my hearing against Richard Oliver and was himself suspended by Andy Furlong in 2016 – for what has never been revealed*. I cannot believe these matters are unrelated.

At no point in the exchange does Richard Oliver point out the inappropriateness of the behaviour of Dom Anderson, Andy Furlong and Ravi Subramanian. I presume they consider themselves "*all lads together*" and above reproach given their opposition to Jeremy Corbyn, in an exchange more befitting the changing room than a political party of social justice.

I trust you will take this matter very seriously indeed as I believe it brings the party into disrepute. These comments were not made in a private conversation, but were made on a publicly available profile page not requiring any special relationship to Richard Oliver. This is especially important because in my view it is critical that all members of the Party adhere to appropriate standards of conduct and behaviour in public, particularly elected representatives.

What is most concerning is that the two previous complaints over this abuse by Marc Gibson and Dr Gray do not appear to have been addressed by the party with the seriousness and commitment that abuse and intimidation warrants. I presume this is part of a wider strategy amongst the Party administration of systematically ignoring members' concerns where those members are amongst those who support the current leadership. This is so widespread nationally for there to be little doubt in my mind that this is the case. The four individuals named above are well known locally for their opposition to Jeremy Corbyn as leader of the Labour Party.

Dom Anderson is a Labour councillor in Derby and the others have held senior positions in East Midlands Labour. I believe this abusive behaviour does not befit members of the Party and as noted above, trust that the party treats abuse and intimidatory behaviours with the seriousness such behaviours deserve whatever position they hold, and whatever position they take. In my view these four individuals merit suspension pending further investigation.

I further note that Andy Furlong also appears to be encouraging Dom Anderson by 'helpfully' providing a link to an Ofcom guide in order to use further abusive language. I reproduce a screenshot of what the Ofcom guide says about the use of one of the words below.

The first abuse comes early in the communication where Dom Anderson describes Umaar Kazmi, the Secretary of West Bridgford Labour Party, as "a bellend"

However rather than rebuke Dom Anderson, who is remember a Labour Councillor, the others enter into an adolescent and quite infantile, macho suggestion that there are more abusive words to use in a document that OFCOM publish to identify inappropriate language.

Georgia Power, another Labour Councillor in Nottingham City, enters to further the abusive bullying by encouraging the "the lads"

Richard Oliver here is clearly playing along and is in no way pointing out the inappropriate language.

And again, the laddish abuse continues between Andy Furlong and Dom Anderson.



This is a particularly distasteful example of sexist laddish abuse from men who really ought to know better. On page 5 of the OPFCOM report, which can be found at: https://www.ofcom.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0023/91625/OfcomQRG-AOC.pdf, it is clear the word "bellend" is considered as intended to hurt, but to Anderson, Oliver, and Furlong this is a joke.

Bellend	Strong language, generally unacceptable pre-watershed. Seen by some as a childish word often said in jest. More aggression or specific intent to hurt heightens impact.
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I am sure such language contravenes the Party social media policy but certainly offends decent and acceptable behaviour as defined by OFCOM. However, the abuse does not stop there, but continues – remember on a public social media page. There is now a long contribution from Ravi Subramanian, who is not only a Party member with some responsibility, but as the spouse of a local Labour MP I believe has a responsibility to act with the highest personal standards and not to bring the party into disrepute.

Ravi Subramanian
 The thing is with all of this is that there is a legitimate argument to be had about mandatory reselection. We can all have that argument and agree to disagree in good faith and in a comradely way.

But when Umaar brings into the argument that trade unions are undemocratic he shows his utter ignorance of the fact that trade unions are biggest democratic institutions in the UK.

I've seen Umaar's comments in the past about the Labour Party and he has confidence that is not matched by actual knowledge. He has no humility. He once tried to lecture me about what Chris did when he was Labour leader of Derby Council.

He asserted strongly what Chris had done. When I told him he was

He asserted strongly what Chris had done. When I told him he was talking garbage I told him I was the UNISON Regional Organiser who covered our Derby City branch and I had a lot of first hand experience of Chris as leader and he his leftism very well hidden when he was leader. If course a Umaar was unable to acknowledge that there might be someone who knew more than him and he lectured me further.

I've said on a side thread that when Blair was leader there were young careerists who had no knowledge of politics who latched onto MPs as a careerist strategy.

There are many brilliant and genuine young people who have got involved in left wing politics since Corbyn became leader. I've worked with some in my role as UNISON Regional Secretary. They

genuine young people who have got involved in left wing politics since Corbyn became leader. I've worked with some in my role as UNISON Regional Secretary. They are a breath of fresh air to the movement.

But everything I've seen about Umaar is that he is not one of them. He is arrogant, has little knowledge of the labour movement (which is fine but he is unwilling to learn) and he has all the traits of a Blairite careerist but this time in the Corbyn era.

3 d Like Reply   2

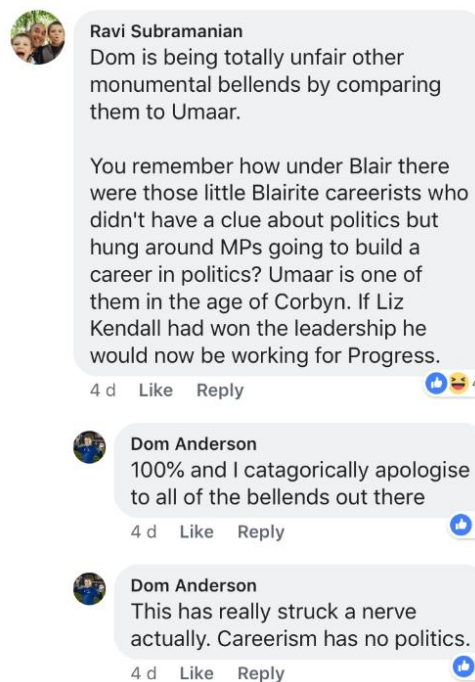
Andy Furlong
 A damning assessment from Ravi, but sadly one that confirms my own experience. Umaar's behaviour when I was Chair of the East Midlands Labour Party was nothing short of appalling.

3 d Like Reply   2

Ravi is entitled to hold whatever views he wants, but the issue now becomes unnecessarily personal and in so doing moves the narrative further into bullying – Umaar is now “arrogant” and likened to a “Blairite careerist”. That isn’t language I would personally use, since Tony Blair was one of the Party’s longest serving Prime Ministers. But again, this is a public post, and Umaar is an elected officer of the Party. Andy Furlong, again a party member with a significant reputation, enters making a very public allegation against another member of the Regional Board. As far as I know no such allegation has been raised with Umaar Kazmi himself through the proper channels. Given Umaar declines to enter this laddish abuse is to his endearing credit.

Finally, Dom Anderson and Ravi Subramanian close with what can only be described as immature and adolescent laddish comments.

For me a test would be whether this language is appropriate for a wide distribution. It clearly isn’t, and it feels to me this requires, at the very least, an admonishment and an apology, but more appropriately and according to the Labour Party Rules requires action by the Party. Let me remind you. Two of these men (Furlong and Oliver) have conspired with absolutely no evidence whatsoever, to accuse me of abuse and intimidation when they are clearly engaging in such behaviour here. That they themselves might be allowed to get away with this obvious clear evidence of unacceptable abusive intimidation against a Party member would be a disgraceful whitewash. Sadly, though with the poor reputation of the Complaints Department, I do not expect anything less than a whitewash; that is a tragedy.



I would like to hope you will treat this matter with the seriousness it deserves and take action. I expect high standards of behaviour of all members, irrespective of where they stand on internal Labour Party issues, no matter what their role or position is. What is required is a public apology by these four individuals to Umaar Kazmi, and acceptance their behaviour fell far short of that expected, and suspension from the Party whilst an investigation by the Party is undertaken - which given my own experience will take at least two years.

Finally, the saddest issue for me – as a loyal and committed member of the Labour Party for 25 years - is that I do not really expect to get a reply to this letter, nor even an acknowledgment; but I have to try. Past experience leads me to conclude that I certainly do not expect you to take it seriously. Like many up and down the country, I simply cannot understand how the Party allows loyal members like myself and Umaar Kazmi, who fully support the Party Leadership, to be hounded and abused, whilst others who are oppositional and antagonistic to the Leadership, are allowed to insult, threaten and generally bring the Party into disrepute with impunity.

Yours sincerely

Peter Gates

From: Data Protection <dataprotection@labour.org.uk>
Sent: 31 October 2018 18:08
To: peter.gates3@btopenworld.com
Subject: Your letter to the General Secretary

Dear Peter,

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your letter to Jennie Formby of 30th October 2018 regarding subject access requests and a complaint relating to social media conduct.

I will make enquiries as to the issues you raise and come back to you in due course. Given that we are currently dealing with a significant amount of subject access requests and the team is currently short a member of staff, I must inform you that I think it unlikely I will be able to deal with this within 7 days. You are correct to assume that your second request will be treated as an entirely new SAR and we will be responding accordingly in line with statutory timescales.

Your complaint about social media conduct has been passed to the complaints team to review, who are copied into this email for their reference.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Whyte
Head of External Governance
Governance and Legal Unit

From: Peter Gates <peter.gates3@btopenworld.com>
Sent: 05 November 2018 09:47
To: Data Protection <dataprotection@labour.org.uk>; jennie_formby@labour.org.uk;
andrew_whyte@labour.org.uk; complaints@labour.org.uk
Cc: Martin Lee <mlee@martin-lee.co.uk>; Marc Gibson <marcgibson@hotmail.com>;
umaarkazmi@gmail.com; Ben Gray <ben@mearm.com>; Keir Chewings <kchewings@me.com>
Subject: RE: Your letter to the General Secretary

For Transparency, I have copied this email to the following Party officers:

*Martin Lee, Solicitor
Keir Chewings, Chair Rushcliffe CLP
Marc Gibson, Chair West Bridgford BLP
Umaar Kazmi, Secretary West Bridgford BLP
Dr Ben Gray, Labour Party member.*

Hi Andrew, Jennie,

Can I first of all say thank you for this – it is a welcome change to get any response from the Party and it is much appreciated, as is the rapidity of your response. Here in Rushcliffe we have become accustomed to being ignored when raising complaints – and I could list a significant number of members who have lost patience with the Party apparatus. However I will see your instant reply as signs of positive change – at least on that regards. However, I notice the email is a generic one so I am not really sure to whom I am actually talking. Hence I have copied this to your personal address. However real positive change requires action, not just words. However my letter was sent to Jennie Formby for a purpose. Whilst I appreciate she will have 1,000,001 things to do, and will need to delegate some tasks, I simply cannot believe she is aware of some of the things that go on under the name of the Labour Party – and indeed under the name of the

Governance and Legal Department. Most Party members in Rushcliffe are appalled at the way the CLP and myself have been treated. It is utterly unbelievable, and quite without any justification. In short it is a disgrace and as Head of the Department responsible, you should be hanging your head in shame Andrew. I realise I am not alone, and you will no doubt be dealing with a multitude of cases around the country where Party members, like myself, have been treated appallingly, unjustly and contrary to party rules. **But it ought to be quite unacceptable for Party Officials to mislead - even lie, produce and build a case on falsified documentation, interfere with witnesses, collude with complainants, and so on. You can see details in the attached. In addition, it does appear that someone has breached the DPA, and the Party apparatus has covered that up. It is this I cannot believe Jennie is aware of. I presume such matters are being kept from the General Secretary herself by full time officials - for obvious reasons as the issues are quite shocking. The documents attached will clarify some of those issues.**

I sympathise with the staffing issue, but in the correspondence you will see I raised this first in 2017. **I can't see how a current shortage of staff can explain two years of silence. We have always presumed here in Rushcliffe that the strategy is to delay interminably in the hope the member will give up. I am still here fighting for justice and truth, which is why I joined the Labour Party. Just to point out, what I am referring to is, I understand, illegal. That is the advice I have received from the legal profession and the Information Commissioner. I understand there is an argument that this needs to be covered up and this explains the action of the Party in refusing to engage. That is however unjustifiable and immoral.**

As for my second SAR request this is to uncover serious procedural irregularities in the disciplinary process which ought to lead to my temporary exclusion to be put aside. **I believe it is very clear the proceedings of the hearing in June were secret for a reason. To hide the rule breaking and jerrymandering of the hearing in order to remove one more supporter of the Leadership.**

As for my complaint let me expand. You very clearly have a councillor - Dom Anderson - abusing my Branch Secretary IN PUBLIC. This is not an isolated incident. The language used - "bellend" - is unacceptable and has been recognised as such by OFCOM. That this has been so recognised is cause for hilarity by Andy Furlong, a previous Chair of the East Midlands Regional Board. Further, Ravi Subramanian jokes about the abuse being "unfair to monumental bellends". Ravi is married to Lillian Greenwood. The person on whose timeline this all took place - Richard Oliver - very clearly countenances this abuse. I stress, this all took place in public. How is there any doubt whatsoever that this is unacceptable on-line abuse contrary to Rule 2, 1, 8 and warranting disciplinary action? Yet the response to the Chair of West Bridgford Branch who took this abuse up with Complaints was treated with further contempt and denial. The other person who raised this issue with Complaints - Dr Ben Gray - has not even had the decency of a response as far as I am aware. **This can only be because the individuals concerned are antagonistic to the Leader of the Party and as far as seems very clear, Complaints are only really interested in complaints made against those who are respectful and supportive of Jeremy.**

Let me contextualise that previous comment. In March 2016 Andy Furlong was responsible for suspending Umaar Kazmi, Marc Gibson and myself (all supporters of the Party Leadership) along with seven others for non-existent unsubstantiated and fabricated abuse. In June 2018 Richard Oliver was responsible for unfounded, unjustified and unsubstantiated mendacious allegations against me for the same non-existent abuse. Both of these individuals then go on to clearly abuse Umaar in what can only be described as childish yet highly offensive abuse against an elected Party officer. They clearly see themselves as beyond reproach, but their behaviour is appalling. I would go further however. Given Umaar was a witness for me I believe the attack on him is "payback". How can this be countenanced and overlooked unless there is some collusion between Complaints and those members antagonistic to the leadership? Where does the Party of social justice stand on this issue Andrew? Does the Party stand for justice or only in some circumstances for some people?

Yours, Peter Gates.

From: peter.gates3@btopenworld.com <peter.gates3@btopenworld.com>
Sent: 27 November 2018 15:05
To: 'Data Protection' <dataprotection@labour.org.uk>; jennie_formby@labour.org.uk;
andrew_whyte@labour.org.uk; complaints@labour.org.uk
Cc: 'Martin Lee' <mlee@martin-lee.co.uk>; 'Marc Gibson' <marcgibson@hotmail.com>;
umaarkazmi@gmail.com; 'Ben Gray' <ben@mearm.com>; 'Keir Chewings' <kchewings@me.com>
Subject: RE: Your letter to the General Secretary
Importance: High

Dear Andrew Jennie,

I wrote to you on 30th October and again on 5th November. Well, as I think we all expected, I get no response. See especially the highlighted parts below. This really is quite disgraceful. It is now four weeks since I sent registered letters to you all regarding formal requests over breaches of the DPA and a complaint about the behaviour of party members against a Party Officer and a new SAR..

1. I make a formal complaint and provide screenshot evidence regarding crude and abusive on-line behaviour by four individuals. But because these particular individuals are critical of the Leadership of the party, Complaints Department apparently refuse to even look at it. They certainly have not acknowledged my communication. Can you please provide me with the details of whom I get in contact with to lodge a complaint about the Complaints Department. Ideally can someone request the Head of Complaints to actually investigate my complaint.
2. My SAR over the irregular and unconstitutional NCC hearing in June in particular will be due in a few days and I shall expect by next Monday 3rd December to receive the following:
 - all notes made by the Panel Members whether in their own notebooks or as side notes to their copies of the Charges Pack or my Response Document prior to and during the panel hearing.
 - all communication between the Chair and members of the Panel and the secretary to the NCC, Jane Shaw.
 - all minutes of meetings of any body of the NEC when my case was discussed.
 - all communications where I am mentioned between officers of the Party, particularly generated by the Legal and Governance Unit.
 - all information as to how the NEC through its Regional Office claims it came into possession of a copy of a private email relied upon by the NEC to prosecute the case against me.
3. My continued attempts to have the Party put right the serious breaches of the DPA in filtering out information in my previous SAR, in order to deny me information that would make it clear my original suspension was contrary to Labour Party Rules. I will contact the Information Commissioner on 1st December to lodge a formal complaint against the Party if this is not forthcoming.

Colleagues, I appreciate there are shockwaves running through the Party apparatus at the historic changes taking place within the party, but you really cannot justify this sort of recalcitrant behaviour. One way to resolve this very quickly is to recognise the irregularities that have gone on and to reinstate me with immediate effect. We can all get on with more important things.

Solidarity

Peter Gates

From: Marc Gibson <marcgibson@hotmail.com>

Sent: 28 November 2018 09:20

To: peter.gates3@btopenworld.com; jennie_formby@labour.org.uk; andrew_whyte@labour.org.uk; complaints@labour.org.uk

Cc: 'Martin Lee' <mlee@martin-lee.co.uk>; Marc Gibson <marcgibson@hotmail.com>;

umaarkazmi@gmail.com; 'Ben Gray' <ben@mearm.com>; 'Keir Chewings' <kchewings@me.com>

Subject: RE: Your letter to the General Secretary

Dear Peter

Have you yet had a response to your email?

Regards

Marc Gibson

7 Melton Rd

Nottingham

NG2 7NW

Chair West Bridgford branch Labour Party

From: peter.gates3@btopenworld.com <peter.gates3@btopenworld.com>

Sent: 28 November 2018 10:20

To: 'Marc Gibson' <marcgibson@hotmail.com>; 'jennie_formby@labour.org.uk' <jennie_formby@labour.org.uk>; 'andrew_whyte@labour.org.uk' <andrew_whyte@labour.org.uk>; 'complaints@labour.org.uk' <complaints@labour.org.uk>

Cc: 'Martin Lee' <mlee@martin-lee.co.uk>; umaarkazmi@gmail.com <umaarkazmi@gmail.com>; 'Ben Gray' <ben@mearm.com>; 'Keir Chewings' <kchewings@me.com>

Subject: RE: Your letter to the General Secretary

Hi Marc,

Thanks for this. No of course not. Nor to any over the past 18 months about this. I am well beyond expecting a reply from the Party administration on this to be honest. I think you and I know what has gone on and the associated need by the Party to keep it all secret, closing ranks. Hence the silences, the lack of response, the lack of any regret or contrition. Were I not as committed as I am to the Labour Party, I would – like many across the country no doubt – have walked away by now in disgust. As you well know given your role as Chair of West Bridgford - a Branch with 800+ members that regularly had 70+ to its meetings – the branch has now had three inquorate Branch meetings because members are just so disgusted at the way I have been treated they have turned away in disgust refusing to get involved. But it is not just me – it is the nine other members also suspended in 2016 by the Regional Office for daring to turn up to a meeting. I can only suspect this is what it is all about, damaging the local Party as a way of damaging the leadership. And now the individual responsible for suspending us (Andy Furlong) along with the individual charged with putting the NEC case against me (Richard Oliver), have participated in publicly abusing the Branch Secretary, Umaar Kazmi with quite offensive language, but we can't complain about that. Nor can we even get a response from Complaints because that would open up too many questions. I know they say "justice is blind" but here she's bloody comatose.

We all hoped the change in General Secretary would bring positive changes, but it looks like we were wrong. As I said previously, I have to doubt Jennie ever gets any of this correspondence and hopefully has no idea what is going on.

Thanks as ever Marc for your on-going support and that of the Branch members. It that and the hope of a Labour Government that keep me going. As the Party moto said Hope for the Future, We are the Many. Sadly the Few run the Party bureaucracy.

Solidarity

Peter