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Tim Dexter
Complaints Team
The Labour Party
Head Office
Southside
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Dear Tim,

Thank you for your letter of 30 November. I appreciated you taking the time to reply. To be honest I expected to be ignored, which appears to be the usual practice. I notice you say you consider the matter closed – and as such I do not expect a reply to this. However, as a member of 25 years standing, I think it is incumbent on me to offer some advice which I hope you will accept in the spirit of comradeship. It is possible you are only “the messenger”. In which case please pass this onto the individuals(s) who took the decisions.

First, the matter of closure. Naturally you can decide to take no further action. However, that is far from the matter being closed. Local members will not consider it closed when the matter has not been dealt with, and not been seen to be dealt with. So, it will remain an open sore, a matter of resentment between the membership, local officers and the Party machinery. That is your responsibility.

Secondly, it is a widely held belief that the Labour Party machinery is very partisan taking a rather antagonistic position on the direction of the Party since Gordon stepped down and certainly since Ed did. The way you have dealt with this matter merely enhances that perspective. That is your responsibility.

Thirdly, Party Rules need to be applied without fear of favour. Clearly here that is not the case as certain members have been able to abuse a Party Officer in a very unacceptable way, and yet you refuse to identify to the victim what that resolution was. There is no understanding of harassment or intimidation that would see that as an acceptable way of moving forwards. The only reasonable conclusion to your letter is that no action was taken to resolve the matter and that it is quite acceptable for some particular Party officials critical of Jeremy, to abuse those Party Officers who are publicly known to support the leadership and direction of the Party. This is no way to build a strong united political party. That is your responsibility.

Now of course you can sit back, basking in the warm glow that you have “got one over” the membership who are powerless in the face of the power of the Party bureaucracy. Or you could feel rather guilty that you have allowed a dedicated Party activist to be publicly abused by four malcontented, macho individuals who presumably “have contacts”. The membership however, will not forget this act of betrayal. You have let people and the Party down. That is your responsibility.

I hope that goes some way to help. I wish you the best for Christmas and maybe some reflection in the new year.

Solidarity

Peter Gates