

The Labour Party

Head Office

Southside, 105 Victoria Street, London SW1E
6QT Labour Central, Kings Manor,
Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 6PA
0345 092 2299 | labour.org.uk/contact

Mr Jon De Rennes,
18 Blakeden Drive,
Claygate,
ESHER,
KT10 0JR

17 December 2018

REF: L1618355
Case No: CN-0970

Dear Mr De Rennes,

Notice of investigation

Allegations that you may have been involved in a breach of Labour Party rules have been brought to the attention of national officers of the Labour Party. These allegations relate your conduct on social media which may be in breach of rule 2.I.8. It is important that these allegations are properly investigated.

We are currently at the investigatory stage of the disputes process and at no time during an investigation does the Labour Party confer an assumption of guilt on any party. You are not currently administratively suspended and no restrictions have been placed on the rights associated with your membership at this time.

The General Secretary has appointed Patrick Smith, Investigations Officer, to arrange conduct of the Party's own investigation. You will be contacted in due course with details as to how the investigation will proceed. Please quote case number CN-0970 on all correspondence.

Attached to this letter is the evidence pertinent to this case, along with a series of questions which require your response. Upon receipt of your answers, the Party will be able to conclude this matter as quickly as possible.

Please respond in writing to the London address at the top of this letter or by email to patrick_smith@labour.org.uk quoting case number CN-0970 within 14 days of the date at the top of this letter.

jderennes@yahoo.co.uk is the email address that we will be corresponding with during the course of this investigation. If this email is incorrect please call 0345 092 2299 to update it.

The Labour Party's investigation process operates confidentially. That is vital to ensure fairness to you and the complainant, and to protect the rights of all concerned under the Data Protection Act 2018. I must therefore ask you to ensure that you keep all information and correspondence relating to this investigation private, and that do not share it with third parties or the media (including social media). That includes any information you receive from the Party identifying the name of the person who has made a complaint about you, any witnesses, the allegations against you, and the names of Party staff dealing with the matter. If you fail to do so, the Party reserves the right to take action to

protect confidentiality, and you may be liable to disciplinary action for breach of the Party's rules. The Party will not share information about the case publicly unless, as a result of a breach of confidentiality, it becomes necessary to correct inaccurate reports. In that case we will only release the minimum information necessary to make the correction. **The Party may also disclose information in order to comply with its safeguarding obligations.**

The Party would like to make clear that there is support available to you while this matter is being investigated. There are a number of organisations available who can offer support for your wellbeing:

You can contact your **GP** who can help you access support for your mental health and wellbeing.

The Samaritans are available 24/7 – They offer a safe place for anyone to talk any time they like, in their own way – about whatever's getting to them. Telephone **116 123**.

Citizens Advice - Provide free, confidential and impartial advice. Their goal is to help everyone find a way forward, whatever problem they face. People go to the Citizens Advice Bureau with all sorts of issues. They may have money, benefit, housing or employment problems. They may be facing a crisis, or just considering their options. **<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>**

If you have questions about the investigation process please contact the Investigating Officer, whose details will be included in this letter. If you have any questions regarding support available from the party please call the **Safeguarding Unit** on **0207 783 1134** Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 4.30pm.

It is hoped you will offer your full co-operation to the Party in resolving this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Nareser Osei,

Head of Disputes

c.c. South East Labour Party
Esher and Walton CLP

Please respond to these questions to the email address outlined in your letter within 14 days of the date on page 1.

- 1) Please see the evidence attached overleaf. The Party has reason to believe that this is your Facebook account. Can you confirm this is the case?
- 2) The Party further has reason to believe that you posted or shared these statements yourself. Can you confirm this is the case? If not, each individual pieces of evidence is numbered so please specify which of the pieces of evidence you are disputing posting or sharing?

Item 1

- 3) What did you mean by “c) Killed. LOL”?
- 4) Who do you understand “Arse-Ache” to refer to?
- 5) Can you explain a bit more what the post you were responding to was about?
- 6) Do you think that your comments could be described as abusive or threatening?

Further Questions

- 7) Rule 2.1.8 in the Party's rulebook states:
“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. The NEC shall take account of any codes of conduct currently in force and shall regard any incident which in their view might reasonably be seen to demonstrate hostility or prejudice based on age; disability; gender reassignment or identity; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; or sexual orientation as conduct prejudicial to the Party: these shall include but not be limited to incidents involving racism, antisemitism, Islamophobia or otherwise racist language, sentiments, stereotypes or actions, sexual harassment, bullying or any form of intimidation towards another person on the basis of a protected characteristic as determined by the NEC, wherever it occurs, as conduct prejudicial to the Party. Any dispute as to whether a member is in breach of the provisions of this sub-clause shall be determined by the NCC in accordance with Chapter 1 Clause IX above and the disciplinary rules and guidelines in Chapter 6 below. Where appropriate the NCC shall have regard to involvement in financial support for the organisation and/or the activities of any organisation declared ineligible for affiliation to the Party under Chapter 1.11.5 or 3.C above; or to the candidature of the members in opposition to an officially endorsed Labour Party candidate or the support for such candidature. The NCC shall not have regard to the mere holding or expression of beliefs and opinions except in any instance inconsistent with the Party's aims and values, agreed codes of conduct, or involving prejudice towards any protected characteristic.”

What is your response to the allegation that your conduct may be or have been in breach of this rule?

- 8) The Party's Code of Conduct: Social Media Policy states that *“treat all people with dignity and respect. This applies.....offline and online”* do you think the posts in this pack are consistent with this policy?
- 9) Looking back at the evidence supplied with this letter, do you regret posting or sharing any of this content?
- 10) Do you intend to post or share content of this nature again in the future?
- 11) Would you be willing to undergo training to better understand and comply with the Party's Code of Conduct if it were recommended or offered to you by the party?

Item 1

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Labour Against the Witchhunt - UNOFFICIAL
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of CLPs also had candidates imposed, because of the lack of time to go through a selection process. It is what it is now, for good or... See More

Like · Reply · 1h

Daphne Gilbert replied · 1 Reply

Write a comment...

Ash Small 4 hrs

We need to take them out one at a time..... Do we take Arse-Ache out first.... Or do we leave him until last..... And make an example of him....? 😊

2 Comments

Like Comment

Len J Lychee By take them out do you mean a) To dinner or a movie? or b) Get them removed from the LP?... 😊

Like · Reply · 3h

Jon de Rennes c) Killed. LOL

Like · Reply · 2h

Len J Lychee Jon de Rennes I'm not down with c or a 😊

Like · Reply · 2h

Jon de Rennes B is probably the best option. LOL

Like · Reply · 2h

Len J Lychee Jon de Rennes I agree. 😊

Like · Reply · 2h