

Statement on Chris Williamson

27 June 2019

We cannot overstate the depth and breadth of hurt and anger felt about the readmission of Chris Williamson into the Labour Party and the questions that arise about the fairness of the process.

The officer recommendation - that Mr Williamson should be referred to the National Constitutional Committee for action - was ignored by the members of the NEC panel. That the composition of that panel was changed at short notice seems highly irregular.

Justice needs to be seen to be done and this process has not done that.

Given that the Labour Party is being investigated by the EHRC over allegations of institutional antisemitism this case is particularly important.

It is clear to us that the Labour Party's disciplinary process remains mired by the appearance of political interference. This must stop. We need a truly independent process.

We call on Jeremy Corbyn to show leadership by asking for this inappropriate, offensive and reputationally damaging decision to be overturned and reviewed.

Ultimately, it is for Jeremy Corbyn to decide whether Chris Williamson retains the Labour whip. He must remove it immediately if we are to stand any hope of persuading anyone that the Labour Party is taking antisemitism seriously.

Signed:

Tom Watson	Kate Green	Darren Jones	Lord Levy
Holly Lynch	Ruth Cadbury	Alex Sobel	Baroness Maggie Jones
Stella Creasy	Owen Smith	Karen Buck	Rushanara Ali
Anna Turley	Seema Malhotra	Neil Coyle	Debbie Abrahams
Rosie Duffield	Liz Kendall	Lord Mandelson	Daniel Zeichner
Louise Ellman	Chris Matheson	Anna McMorrin	Lilian Greenwood
Ruth Smeeth	Margaret Hodge	Chi Onwurah	Graham Jones
Jenny Chapman	Stephen Kinnock	Baroness Taylor of Bolton	Toby Perkins
Roberta Blackman-Woods	Jeff Smith	Lord Willie Bach	Lord George Robertson
Stephen Doughty	Chris Bryant	Lord Willie Bach	Baroness Mary Goudie
Karin Smyth	Wes Streeting	Susan Elan Jones	Barry Sheerman
Baroness Thornton	Julie Elliott	Ged Killen	Tonia Antoniazzi
Lord McNicol	Lord Levy	Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale	Ian Lucas
Baroness Morgan of Huyton	Lord Knight of Weymouth	Lord Livermore	Lord George Foulkes
Lord Turnberg	Lord Harris of Haringey	Kevin Barron	Lord Wood of Anfield
Gloria De Piero	Ali McGovern	Dan Jarvis	Cat McKinnell
Baroness Royall of Blaisdon	James Frith	Jess Phillips	Ben Bradshaw
Yvette Cooper	Lucy Powell	Martin Whitfield	Lord Haskell
Baroness Massey of Darwen	Bridget Phillipson	Rachel Reeves	Lisa Nandy
Baroness Kingsmill	Pat McFadden	Peter Kyle	Gareth Thomas
	Baroness McIntosh of Hudnall	Baroness Armstrong of Hilltop	Lord Brooke
	Lord Triesman		Sharon Hodgson
			Ellie Reeves

Lord Soley
Madeleine Moon
Mary Creagh
Conor McGinn
Lord Mendelsohn
Janet Daby
Baroness Corston
Baroness Lister of
Burtersett
Baroness McDonagh

Lord Dubs
Ian Murray
Tulip Siddiq
Rosena Allin-Khan
Diana Johnson
Luke Pollard
Phil Wilson
Lord Woolmer of Leeds
Siobhan McDonagh

Lord Young of Norwood
Green
Baroness Crawley
Steve Reed
Lord Drayson
Emma Reynolds
Stephen Morgan
Tracy Brabin
Vernon Coaker

Lord Kennedy of
Southwark
Baroness Liddell
Baroness Andrews
Baroness Prosser
David Hanson
Baroness Lister
Baroness Kennedy of
the Shaws