

Dear Ms Saxby,

RE: Dominic Cummings

I hope you're keeping well at this turbulent time.

The British people have been trying to come to grips with the restrictions imposed by lockdown in an effort to contain the virus. Although these measures have led to hardship for some and heartbreaking separation for others, we have seen an extraordinary resilience in the belief that 'we are all in this together'. This has generated an expectation by everyone to stay at home in order to save lives - it was that simple. The groundswell of disbelief and disgust at the news of Dominic Cummings flouting the rules he has been so involved in developing is therefore quite understandable. You will be aware, of course, that these feelings are shared across North Devon.

Many people have been left wondering why it is one rule for the entire nation and another one for Cummings and Johnson's top team. In a recent tweet, North Devon Liberal Democrats summed up the mood of North Devon, we said 'we're especially sorry to those who haven't been able to hold the hands of their loved ones as they passed, whilst Cummings thinks he's above the rules'. I echo the point that many people have made immense sacrifices to protect the NHS and save lives, but this hasn't been repaid by Cummings in flouting the rules, or indeed the new 'stay alert' message which has seen tourists flock to Devon and Cornwall.

A number of Conservative Members of Parliament have put constituents above party to denounce Dominic Cummings for breaking lockdown. In recent weeks, three former cabinet ministers – Damian Green, Stephen Crabb and David Davis – have denounced Cummings, his actions and his influence. Whilst realistically these MPs have nothing to lose, with no real prospect of returning to the cabinet, I admit that I am pleasantly surprised to see the likes of Simon Hoare MP (Dorset), Damian Collins MP (Folkestone & Hythe), Sir Roger Gale MP (North Thanet), Paul Maynard (Blackpool North), Robert Syms (Poole and Dorset), Julian Sturdy (York), Craig Whittaker (Calder Valley) and more besides have acted with their principles in mind and not their future career prospects.

I'm writing to ask whether you, as MP, will join them in denouncing Dominic Cummings?

Can you provide an assurance that you will represent the views of North Devon in Westminster? I sincerely hope that your integrity is greater than your career ambitions and you represent the view that Mr Cummings should be dismissed, before the public cohesion so vital to fighting this disease is damaged beyond repair.

I very much look forward to hearing from you and do hope you stay safe during this crisis.

Sincerely,



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