

My open letter to Jennie Formby:

Dear Jennie Formby,

It has been brought to my attention that my name is included in the report that was leaked this week. To say I am horrified is an understatement.

The report names me as someone who was served a Notice of Investigation in 2017. This will lead many to believe that there were grounds for an investigation and, as a result of that, that I am in fact anti-Semitic.

The report says nothing of the lack of any real investigation on the part of the Labour Party into the allegations made against me. It says nothing of the failure to communicate, the altered report and the shoddy treatment I have suffered at the hands of Labour Party staff or of the years of delay that I have been subject to. It says nothing of the emails ignored, of the complaints ignored or of the promises of action broken.

It also says nothing of the support given me by my CLP and other members, including on the NEC, who know me and know that I am not an anti-Semite. To think that these members might also be targeted as anti-Semites for that support is abhorrent.

That my name is in this report has the potential to impact on every area of my life. That it is in the public domain means anyone, employers, political organisations, clubs and groups, anyone can see, without context, that the Labour Party considers me to be anti-Semitic. This is not something that can be put back in the box.

For many reasons, outlined repeatedly in the emails I have sent you and which you have ignored, your investigation of me and the hearing you held in my absence are a shameful corruption of democracy. In your desperation to avoid causing offence to a section of the Jewish community, you have offended reason and decency - as well as many other members of the Jewish community.

I will continue to oppose Israel and its appalling, racist treatment of the Palestinian people. I will continue to criticise apartheid in Israel and the war crimes it commits against the Palestinians. I will also continue to criticise the brutalisation of Jewish people living in Israel, something that, strangely, has never been highlighted by those seeking to destroy my reputation.

If this criticism leads to my expulsion from the Labour Party, so be it. I have no faith in the party to find a way out of this disastrous mess that will not continue to contort party values, display us to the wider public as an incoherent shambles and alienate the membership, the vast majority of whom understand exactly why this situation has come about.

Regards,
Katherine Coutanche

