

## **AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND CONTENTS OF THE REPORT ENTITLED "THE WORK OF THE LABOUR PARTY'S GOVERNANCE AND LEGAL UNIT IN RELATION TO ANTISEMITISM, 2014-2019" (THE REPORT)**

The contents of the Report prepared within the Labour Party came into the public domain over the Easter weekend 2020.

The contents of the Report, and the circumstances in which it was prepared and put into the public domain, give rise to legitimate and serious concerns about the structure, culture and practices of the Labour Party organisation and relationships between senior staff and the elected leadership and with the membership.

As a matter of urgency, the Labour Party wish the truth or otherwise of the Report's contents to be investigated.

That investigation should also determine the circumstances how the Report came to be written and became public.

An Investigative Panel chaired by Martin Forde QC, and consisting of Martin Forde QC, Baroness Debbie Wilcox (The Baroness Wilcox of Newport), Lord Larry Whitty (the Rt. Hon. the Lord Whitty) and Baroness Ruth Lister (The Baroness Lister of Burtsett CBE) as its members (together, the **Panel**) is hereby appointed by the Labour Party to investigate and report on the matters described in the terms of reference set out in this document, and to make any recommendations for future conduct and practice as it thinks appropriate.

The Panel shall be independent of the Labour Party, but the Labour Party will provide the support and resources for it to investigate and report effectively, including access to all information the Panel deems necessary to complete the investigation. The Labour Party shall also guarantee the protections provided with whistleblower status, in accordance with applicable law, are granted to all serving Party staff members, and waive any obligations of non-disclosure on former staff members, in relation to any information or testimony they provide to the Panel.

The Panel will use their best endeavours to deliver their report to the Labour Party by 15 July 2020. The report shall be presented to the National Executive Committee before being made public, and the Panel will provide the report in a form suitable for publication, in accordance with applicable law.

### **Terms of Reference**

The Panel shall investigate and report on:

1. The truth or otherwise of the main allegations in the Report (the Panel shall determine which are the most significant allegations which require investigation but they shall include the extent of racist, sexist and other discriminatory culture within Labour Party workplaces, the attitudes and conduct of the senior staff of the Labour Party, and their relationships with the elected leadership of the Labour Party);

2. The background and circumstances in which the Report was commissioned, written and circulated within the Labour Party, with its advisers and any other individuals external to the Labour Party, including the question of the purpose for which the Report was commissioned and prepared, and the circumstances in which the Report was put into the public domain; and
3. The structure, culture and practices of the Labour Party organisation including the relationship between senior party staff and the elected leadership of the Labour Party, as the Panel think appropriate having regard to their investigation as a whole.

And the Panel shall make such recommendations as it considers appropriate concerning the organisation and structures of the Labour Party, arising out of its investigation, recognising that Labour Party structures are covered in rule.

This document was approved by a meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party held on 23 April 2020. The membership of the Panel was approved by a subsequent meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party held on 1 May 2020.