

## The Forde Inquiry FAQs

### **1. How is the Panel planning to interpret the Terms of Reference?**

The Panel intends to interpret its Terms of Reference widely to ensure a full and thorough investigation is undertaken. In addition to investigating and reporting on "*the attitudes and conduct of the senior staff of the Labour Party, and their relationships with the elected leadership of the Labour Party*", the Panel also intends to include the attitudes, conduct and experiences of the wider Labour Party staff and membership. This will enable us to investigate the Labour Party's broader structural issues and to make recommendations about how the Party can create a more inclusive organisational culture moving forwards.

### **2. What will you do with my information after I have submitted it?**

The information that you submit to the Inquiry will be held confidentially by the Forde Inquiry Secretariat on an independent and secure server. Your evidence can only be accessed by the Panel and the Secretariat. We will consider the evidence you have provided and let you know if we have any follow-up questions. We may ask other witnesses questions about the evidence that you have provided to corroborate or test it, and we may include your evidence in the final report. We will always process your information in line with our Privacy Notice, found [here](#).

### **3. Will you share my information with the Labour Party?**

We will not share any information received in the call for evidence directly with the Labour Party. We may ask Labour Party witnesses questions about the evidence that you have provided to corroborate or test it. This will generally be done in an anonymous way. We may also use any information you provide to the Inquiry in the final report to the National Executive Committee ('NEC'). However, this will be done without revealing identities unless we notify you in advance.

### **4. Will you share my information for purposes not directly linked with the Inquiry?**

We will not share your information for purposes not directly linked to the Inquiry. If we wish to share your name, contact details or evidence for other purposes we will ask for your consent first.

### **5. Will you help me follow up on the status of my complaint to the Labour Party?**

The Forde Inquiry is not a complaints or disciplinary body. You may wish to provide us with the details of previous or outstanding complaints to the Labour Party as evidence. This will help us build a clearer picture of the issues being complained of and, more generally, how complaints and disciplinary procedures are managed internally by the Labour Party.

However, we are not able to resolve ongoing personal complaints or grievances with the Labour Party. We are also unable to provide updates on any recent or ongoing internal disciplinary or other legal proceedings that involve the Labour Party. We may comment on these topics in our final report where we consider them relevant to our findings or where they help shape our recommendations.

## **6. Is the Forde Inquiry aware of recent disciplinary actions taken by the Labour Party?**

The Forde Inquiry is aware that the Labour Party is undertaking internal investigations into the circumstances and content of the leaked report. We understand that the Party has taken disciplinary action as a result and that some individuals have been suspended. As the Panel is operating independently from the Labour Party, we have only learnt about the outcomes of these investigations at the same time as the public. We have formally requested further information from the Labour Party about these decisions and we will consider this evidence as part of the investigation.

## **7. I only want to speak to you on an anonymous basis - can you guarantee that?**

We wish to hear from anyone who has information relevant to our Terms of Reference. If you wish your evidence to be kept anonymous, please say so in your submission to us. We will consider whether we are able to agree to this or we will discuss this with you to understand why you want to remain anonymous.

## **8. If I am asked to attend an interview in your investigation can I refuse?**

Yes, you can refuse. The Forde Inquiry is a non-statutory inquiry and we will not be holding formal hearings. We plan to collect evidence in documentary form and from voluntary interviews with witnesses. You do not have to give evidence in an interview if you do not want to. However, we strongly encourage you to contribute to the Inquiry if you have relevant evidence to provide. In this way we can build the fullest picture of the circumstances and content of the leaked report as well the current culture and practices of the Labour Party.

## **9. When you publish the final report will you use my name or the name of my organisation?**

You will not be named in the final report without first being notified by us. We will let you know if we want to name you in the final report and we will explain why we want to do this. We will only name individuals and organisations where we feel it is important to do so in order to deliver a thorough and independent report.

## **10. Will you publish my name in the final report if I refuse to give consent?**

We will notify you if we intend to name you in the final report. If you object to your name or identifying details being published in the final report, we will discuss with you why we feel it is important to name you. If you still refuse to give consent, we will carefully consider whether or not it is sufficiently important to publish your name or identifying details. We will carefully weigh the interests of the investigation against your rights and preference not to be named.

## **11. What will happen to my evidence at the end of the Inquiry?**

Any evidence you provide to the Inquiry will be destroyed once the Forde Inquiry final report is published.