

## Labour Party Compliance Unit interview with Audrey White, Riverside CLP

*The interview was conducted by telephone.*

*HM: Audrey White BW: Ben Westerman (Compliance Unit) Audrey's husband was a silent witness.*

AW: I'll put you on, I'll put you on speaker phone. Just my husband's here. He can be a silent witness for me, or whathaveyou. Is that alright?

BW: Yes, that's fine.

AW: Can you hear me alright then?

BW: Yeah, perfect. Can you hear me?

AW: That's very, very clear. Ok.

BW: Great. Er. Right. Well thank you for, for making the time, especially given that you're in a different country, err, and thanks for, thanks for your statements and for your, erm, various documents. I'm in receipt of them all, just to confirm.

AW: Good.

BW: Erm, Anna Hutchinson sent over everything to me, dating back to the complaint made against Louise Ellman.

AW: Yeah. Oh, well that was the, that's the most recent one. That's the one I made.../

BW: /Yeah

AW: /made to Ian McNichol.

BW: Yes. You did.

AW: Ok. Good, good.

BW: Erm, right, so far as I'm aware, I've got everything that you've, erm, you've sent through

AW: Good.

BW: So, just to kind of give you the little preamble that I've given everyone, erm, this exercise is a normal fact-finding mission, and it's a chance for me to speak to people who have, you know, expressed some discontent with the way the CLP is going at the moment.

AW: Yeah.

BW: And to get all the, all the information I can, erm. It's not a formal hearing of any kind, erm, it's just a chance for me to kind of get some notes down and allow you to vocalise the things that you've got...

AW: Yeah.

BW: ...that you've, that you've already written down.

AW: Ok.

BW: So, beyond this, erm, I'll be speaking to, erm, all the people that I think are relevant. Er, I can confirm I also received an email from you in the very, very recent past, about an hour ago, about Councillor Small, erm...

AW: Oh yeah.

BW: I've taken, I've taken that as a formal complaint, erm, and can confirm that I'll be, erm, investigating that, and therefore speaking to Councillor Small.

AW: Ok.

BW: I suspect that's [unclear] going to happen anyway, so just to confirm before to [unclear] clarify respecting your question, that I will be speaking to him.

AW: Great, great. That's good.

BW: Er, beyond this, I will then, erm, beyond... once, once I've spoken to everyone I think I need to speak to, erm, and received all submissions, all that kind of thing, I'll review the evidence, review the notes I've got from these discussions and make a recommendation to the NEC Disputes Panel, erm, in January, after that I hope to get the AGM sorted, erm, as quickly as possible...

AW: Is that... excuse me... is that earlier on in January.

BW: Erm, I don't, I can't remember the date off the top of my head but it's roughly mid-January.

AW: Ok, good, good. That's good.

BW: Erm, probably, I don't know, a guess, somewhere between ten and twenty. Yeah. The point really is to find a way for the CLP to work together, come together and be united so that we can, we can fight the Tories.

AW: Yeah, exactly, exactly... that's why I'm asking you when because I just want us to, erm, let's have an AGM, let's sort who the majority of the people want to take the positions on the, erm, Executive, erm, and let's all work together. I think, erm, you know, the, erm, people who've remained in the Labour Party for years and years and years have, have worked hard. Err, we have political differences, it's obvious, it's bound to be with anybody who, who, who, err joins an organisation that we all have to debate things. But we just don't get the opportunity to debate anything. You know. And we don't get the opportunity to, erm, to put across, you know, erm, any or... put it this way, to agree on anything. That's what, that's what's making it more frustrating. You know, I mean just for instance that forum, the forum, which, by the way, was our last constituency meeting. We were told that was a constituency meeting in no uncertain terms by the Chair. We were limited, I mean I'm getting into details, but we were, we were limited in who could go, and all the rest of it...

BW: Obviously, obviously, obviously we'll come onto that. I've got a few kind of specific questions I'd like to ask because obviously we're...

AW: Yeah...

BW: ...obvious time constraints because I've got to speak to other people. Erm just to, just to say two things off the bat, erm, if at some point, this is something I say to everyone, if at any point I appear to be playing devil's advocate, it is just so I can anticipate the arguments from all sides and give you a chance to rebut the arguments that might be made from the other side.

AW: Fair enough. Yeah.

BW: Second, that as I said to you by email, the document about which you're concerned, erm is not forming the basis of this investigation. Er, I'm of course aware of it, erm, but it is not the cause or the basis of this investigation, erm...

AW: Is it part of it?

BW: The investigation is being carried out as a result of complaints which have been received by Party members, erm...

AW: But is it playing any part, is it playing any part of it? Is it playing any part, it can't be the basis of it, can it, but is it, is it playing any part of the inv....

BW: No. I'm not taking... unless I can speak to the author of any statement...

AW: Well that's right, yeah...

BW: I will not, will not be taking its word as gospel truth. Erm, so I wanted to ask kind of first and foremost, erm, actually I might, I might start slightly differently, I might, I might erm, ask about your complaint first. I think that's probably the best way to go. The complaint about Councillor Small, erm, is obviously quite straightforward cos [unclear] a recent one... you've, you've...

AW: Yeah, but...

BW: ...you've, you've mentioned it in your most...

AW: You have to be a bit linear....we have to be a bit linear in this though. We have to start off with...

BW: No, no...

AW: ...why did I first...

BW: No, I under...

AW: ...put pen to paper, you know.

BW: No, I understand, but I think, I think that the complaint against Councillor Small, the most recent thing, is something we may as well just deal with quickly because it's something that, erm, you've obviously just emailed me about. I've had a very quick chance to read it, and you also mentioned it in your, in your previous, erm...

AW: Yeah.

BW: ... previous email you mentioned it, and you mentioned the fact that you'd then provide a witness statement, which you have done today, erm, so I thank you, erm, for that one. Can I just clarify with that, that I will be looking into that particular incident and I will be contacting Councillor Small and the witness. I don't think there needs to be any more said about that.

AW: Yeah, well there is really in that, erm, the, the procedures that I was told were being followed, err, when I complained to the Chief Whip, which is Alan Dean, I was told by a Councillor that the correct way to complain about Mr Small was to go to the Chief Whip, and I wish I hadn't been told that because it's not exactly the best way to have your complaint looked at, independently. Err, the best way...

BW: I obviously can't comment on...

AW: No, I'm just saying what I've been told legally is, the Monitoring Office is the independent way of anything like that investigated, because these people are colleagues, you know, you need something more independent, so I've done that, but he didn't follow the... I think maybe what I, rather than go into it here now, is to, erm, send you what, erm, Mr Dean, erm, decided. And then I'll also send you my objections, in terms of he did not follow the procedure and all that, I think that'll...

BW: That'd be useful, and then, then we can, that'd give us a chance to talk about all the other things which I'd like to talk about.

AW: Yeah. Yeah.

BW: Just, just email that to me when you get the opportunity...

AW: [unclear] But just to say very clearly that the whole thing started I think, cos I had the, err, you can see from that time line, the chronology I sent you, I, err, I've only been to, I mean, you should know this, I spend a lot of, I spend my winters away. I have done for quite a few years. Twenty years almost. I spend winters away. And I've had... I've been to a handful of CLPs, a handful of Momentum meetings, and I only joined the pensioners association this year, so I'm not a big activist in politics, at all.

BW: Ok, so can we, can we, can we go back to the beginning please, and..

AW: To the beginning...

BW: ... and talk me through your complaint against, err, Louise Ellman please.

AW: Well, my only complaint, I, I never had a complaint up until, erm, I saw that this document was being, not bandied about, but actually taken to studios, held, held in her hand, given over to SKY, err, News, err commentators. Sitting with it, holding the document, opening at the pages, erm, the erm, the erm, what did they call it, er, *The Today Programme* ringing me up about it. BBC, ITV, *Times* newspaper quoting me, *The Liverpool Echo*. I didn't even know I was in this document until somebody told me on the Friday, it had been out a few days, but I'm in it. And when I looked in it I was absolutely horrified. And then when I found out it was anonymous, you know, at the same time, I was absolutely appalled. And then when I read all these things about me, erm, I was absolutely... I was very, very, very upset. And you know what I was upset about? I was upset about my Mother. My Mother was fifty-five years of age, she was a wonderful, wonderful woman, and yet my Mother's

name was being treated like dirt. And that MP, erm, Eddie Loyden, you know, I mean we did know, my Mum and Dad did know the Loydens. Did you know that people came up to me and said, oh I thought, err, Eddie was happily married to Rose. Which is his wife. They were very, very happily married. So there were all aspersions from all sorts of people, jokes saying Eddie Loyden's love child and all the rest of it. And Eddie Loyden. Well, I don't even wanna go into how bad that report was. Now it just shows you how the, the contempt for the truth the author of that document has.

BW: Right, right, can I interject there. Erm. I suspect that what's happened here is a misunderstanding , erm/

AW: Oh no. No, no, no. No, no, no, it's not a misunderstanding because all the other stuff in it's lies as well.

BW: Er, in, in respect of, just kind of thinking this point by point , erm in respect of the, the claim about, erm, Mr Loyden, there is a radio interview, erm, from the twelfth of July, erm, where you rang into a radio, and I've listened to it myself, and it does appear you said, 'My Dad was Eddie Loyden'. Erm, there may have been some confusion there but, erm, but, erm, that is, that is, those are the words that are said on that interview...

AW: No...no...no... why would I say that? What's the date of the interview, I'll have to check the...

BW: It might well be...

AW: I'll have to check the date of the interview...

BW: It might well be that you started one point with, 'My Dad was', and were interrupted by the, by the, erm, presenter, and then switched to something else...

AW: Has...

BW: Erm...

AW: How did you know...

BW: They were definitely the words that were said...

AW: Can I just ask you a question? How did you know to, erm, to look at this interview? Did someone point that out to you?

PAUSE

BW: Yes.

AW: Oh. So somebody knows where that information came from. So that person knows something about who wrote the, the document.

PAUSE

BW: I don't think that's the case. In this case, no.

AW: Well, I...

BW: I obviously, I've obviously looked into finding out, if I can find out who wrote the document, but I...

AW: Well tell me when this was broadcast and I'm gonna check it.

BW: Ok. That's absolutely fine, erm...

AW: When was the broadcast?/

BW: I'll have a chat with.../

AW: / When was the broad...

BW: Sorry?

AW: When was this broadcast that you've heard?

BW: It was on the twelfth of July, on BBC Radio Merseyside I think, I can double check and, and email you the, erm, the exact...

AW: The link. The link.

BW: The link. Yeah.

AW: Ok. Radio Merseyside.

BW: And, because if that is the case, I think there probably has been a misunderstanding, erm...

AW: Well what about the...

BW: I don't, I don't...

AW: Yeah...

BW: As I said, that's part of the, part of the kind of wider complaint into the use of this document...

AW: It's the use document, yeah, it's the use of the document, the use of the document...

BW: [unclear] into the CLP, rather, rather than the document itself, so can we, can you just talk to me about, about, about the CLP itself, and when you have been to meetings if you perceived anything, you know, including the use of that document by all means, erm, that's been an unpleasant atmosphere or made you feel anything other than, you know, content with, with Party, kind of Party matters.

AW: Erm, no. The only thing I'd say I felt, I mean this idea that they'd been unpleasant, erm, I dunno, most, most of the time I've gone along I'm just frustrated because you don't get to speak. All I ever get is H. Know All, no you can't, no you can't, when you wanna ask a question. You ask a question, of Louise Ellman and you wait right to the end, it's half past eight, we've listened to an hour and a half of reports, and you get to ask one brief question, you don't get to come back on it, and that's probably my, my, erm, you know my only complaint about that, that sort of thing. The real complaint is that somebody's going to the press, and the other, what one of them is, erm, Nick

Small, and the other is Louise Ellman and saying things that are as far as I'm concerned, the meetings I've been to, these things are not true. And I mean clearly not true. The anti-Semitism was not true. And I waited and waited for months for that to be addressed, and that's probably why, the main reason why I end up getting abused by, erm, Louise Ellman and abused by, by the touting round of this document that I'm top of a, a list of key, key figures who are of, er, dark and insidious intent of taking over the Labour Party for their own purposes, erm, it's because I've questioned whether any anti-Semitism happened or not, because I didn't hear any at any of the meetings. And I would say that without any shadow of a doubt whatsoever, because if there was any anti-Semitism I would jump down the person's throat. I wouldn't stand on procedure, I say I insist upon it being minuted, what's been said, and I would object to it, and to be honest with you, I think everyone in the room would do. So I don't really accept, erm, that I attended, I can't talk for others, other meetings I didn't attend, but the ones I did attend there was none. No anti-Semitism. So, and the rest of this I just think I wish we/

BW: Do you.../

AW: /had time for discussion... Sorry?

BW: Do you, do you.... I was just wondering... do you recall which, I mean, I'll understand if you don't there's no reason why you should particularly, but do you recall which meetings you did attend?

AW: No, erm, but I can work my ways backwards. But the one is definitely the one that was referred to in that tweet from, erm, Nick Small, er, which he made on the, I think it's the third of, of April, when he tweets he can't believe some anti-Semitism, some anti-Semitic comments. I think I've sent it to you, it's in my complaint to...

BW: Were you, were you at that meeting?

AW: I was at that particular meeting, yes.

BW: And at the meeting, erm, do you recall any moment in which, erm, there was an accusation of anti-Semitism?

AW: No, none. No.

BW: You don't recall anyone standing up and saying 'That comment is anti-Semitic'?

AW: No, no. No! I would've...

BW: And you, you don't recall... do you recall anyone making the comment that, erm, erm, Israeli Special Forces might have been involved with ISIS?

AW: Yeah, I do. That's not anti-Semitic.

BW: And, and ...

AW: Yeah...

BW: No, no it's the wording we're getting at...

AW: Yeah, yeah, I do remember that...

BW: ...and you don't, you don't recall anyone coming back at that with, reacting to that in any way?

AW: I remember somebody saying that Helen, something to do with Helen Marks, Helen, I remember Helen, Helen Marks who is a Jewish lady, she said something about, erm, I think she started the debate, I'm not sure, and somebody said to her, err, about, oh what did she say, oh, Jew, Jew, Jew hate, self-hating Jew something that she was self-hating, which I thought was... I heard, I couldn't tell, it was somebody at the front, erm, the councillors were mostly at the front, and somebody said that was, err, because, because of what she'd said, that's she's Jewish, so she was a self-hating Jew. That was the only thing I found wasn't right but it wasn't anti-Semitic in that sense.

BW: Beyond that, do you, do you recall, can you speak to any incidents, or any, you know, the thing I, I can't get from these, from written statements is what it was like to be in a room, I can obviously, I can underst, I can, I can read accounts of incidents themselves but I can't, can't put myself in the room.

AW: Yeah...

BW: Do you recall any, any atmosphere that wasn't pleasant, that might... it's been described, and I'll quote, by complainants as, been described as toxic, as intimidating...

AW: Oh no...no...

BW: Er, erm, do you, you know, do you recall any incident in which that might have been the case?

AW: No, not at all, no. Absolutely not at all. Er, I remember this, erm, what's his name, Bumby is it, or Mumby, a councillor, and was going on about stuff that was on the internet, and, erm, it had nothing relevant to do with the meeting, and some people said, I remember some people said, what's that got to do with what's going on in this meeting. And that was the only thing that I thought was, was out of order, for him to go on about stuff that's been said on the internet, because you know....

BW: You're, quite, you're, you're quite happy with the atmosphere at CLP meetings.

AW: Yeah, I am, yeah.

BW: Ok. Erm you don't see any particular problem or ...

AW: Yeah, the only...

BW: ...anything untoward?

AW: The only thing is, I don't think we're allowed to speak. The whole thing is taken over by – and I've said this, this to H. H, as a proposal from the floor, can't we all agree to have reports sent in from the MP, Louise was there at the time, from the MP, and then, because the whole meeting is taken up with the report, we're only allowed to ask one question and then we're answered with a word, no, or yes, that's what I've had.

BW: What's the response to that?

AW: And I think it stifles debate, and I think that's, I'm appalled by it. I've never carried on and shouted...

BW: What, what was said...

AW: Sorry?

BW: When, when you said to H., what did she say?

AW: She said what she would do, she wouldn't put it to the vote, what she said that she would do was to do a survey on it, she would send round a survey, erm, to the members...

BW: Did she?

AW: ...and she never did. She never did.

BW: Ok. I've made a note of that. Erm, ok, so I won't kind of ask any further questions about, about...

AW: So no, I don't think, I've never walked away. And I've even heard people say, you know people who, err if you like, more, more of my opinion have said, have said, oh they found them a bit, erm, you know boring or they're not allowed to speak, that sort of thing, but nothing, I don't think anyone's aggressive. Tell you what, the only meeting I thought was awful was the meeting when Hetty wouldn't allow the meeting to, erm, to go on, the agen, the agenda was sent out and...

BW: On the first of July?

AW: On the first of July, and, erm, you know what was awful, honest to God this is the truth, you couldn't make it up, some guy behind me, who was very, very aggressive, shouting and carrying on about the meeting, and, and H. had already said that if anyone causes a fuss, she's going to close down the meeting, she's going to ask them to leave, and if they don't she's going to close down the meeting, and somebody started to nudge her, because they didn't realise that erm, this guy, erm, a man, an older man, very, very aggressive voice and, err shouting, was actually supporting Louise and H. Don't know his name, and she, she, she kept saying to him, I'm gonna ask you to leave, I'm gonna ask you to leave, and then somebody went, 'he's supporting Louise and you', and she shut up then and she stopped. And then she just stopped the meeting and then she, well we never started the meeting... so it...

BW: [unclear]...

AW: It was a waste of time...

BW: Ok, so the way I kind of, I, I see this at the moment, is I'd like to treat sort of separately your individual complaint, your complaints about, erm about Louise and Nick...

AW: Well can I just finish off one thing. Let me tell you how I...

BW: Yes please...

AW: Just on that, and how I approached that, and she didn't want anyone to speak, but I just said I want to appeal to you personally, I want to appeal to you personally Hetty, and she looked at me and she thought, ooh, you know, hang on, so I stood up and said I really would ask you two things, Hetty, please, please, please will you – this is the way I speak at meetings then – please, please will you reconsider that decision you've made because you've just presented us with a brick wall. That's exactly what I said. I said...

BW: And did you get a response to that?

AW: Well no, and, or alternatively would you please put to the vote whether we should go ahead with this meeting or not. And she refused both, and somebody put forward, she refused on both, no she said, it's my prerogative, I'm the Chair, I can do it, and somebody else said, well can you show us, I've got the book in my car, the book you said you use, can you, if I bring it will you show me what, er clause or rule it is you're using to do this because we were flabbergasted, and we daren't say anything because she was just going to close, and not even have anything at all, after us all coming out on a Friday night. So it was a waste of people's time, so that's the way I approached her. And as you know, I think you probably know this, there was a vote of no confidence. There was no teller, and it's, there's never any tellers and the Chair always counts the votes, you know what I mean, and it was, err, one, one, one vote difference. It was just a nonsense. So there you go. So, yeah, that's that meeting.

BW: Ok. So, so, I, I, I'm treating separately your, your individual complaints about err ...

AW: Good.

BW: About Louise and err Nick, and the kind of the investigation as, err, into the CLP as a whole, erm, cos I don't think, I don't think the two should both be treated in the same light, as obviously one is individual, erm, so I don't really think I've got any, any questions as to the, as to the investigation into the CLP. Cos I've got quite a good impression of how you see things, and it doesn't sound as if you think there's too much of a problem. Erm, I will come back to that in a minute, cos I want to ask you a question I've asked everyone...

AW: Well not having discussions is, is a big, massive problem...

BW: Yes, I... I...

AW: ...and proposals is a massive, that's massive to me.

BW: Yes, I, yes, I, I'm going to close by asking a question I've asked everyone. And I'd, I'd like to come back to that in a minute and give you a chance to answer it in full. Erm. As to your individual complaints, erm, I, as I said, I'm going to look at them differently from this, erm, and treat it separately from this. Erm, if you have any more to add, erm, please do. I, I've obviously got a pretty good idea of, of your grievance, given the whole, given, given the kind of thorough documentation you've sent me at the time. It was very, very helpful. I can confirm that Anna has sent everything on to me, so, errrr, deal with me now rather than Anna, err, or kind of contact me directly..

AW: Ha ha, I've had no joy off Anna, did I? I didn't even have an acknowledgement... off anybody, of anything.

BW: Obviously I, I can't, can't speak for others, other members' actions. Erm. I...erm...yeah. I will go through your, your, erm, statements again. Erm, I will send you the, the radio clip I referred to earlier...

AW: Yeah.

BW: The only, the only other question I have, erm, into it, in terms of the libel stuff, erm, is that you obviously you say you're not, you're not kind of too involved in the Labour Party and, and in Momentum, erm, and...

AW: Well I hold no position anywhere, that's the point, I hold no position. I don't even attend...

BW: Yeah, no...

AW: I don't attend regularly.

BW: Which is, which is, which is the one question I have then is in, is in *The Echo* on the twenty eighth of September, a letter appeared, erm, of which you are a signatory. Er, erm, I'd just like to ask you if you are aware of it, basically. You're a signatory, erm, as part of the Momentum committee...

AW: Yeah...

BW: ...erm, which obviously implies some kind of held position. Is that something of which you're aware?

AW: Err, yeah, yeah, which, yeah. Which I've only...

BW: How, how...

AW: ...which I've only attended once. (Laughs) It was to do with the.../

BW: [unclear] yourself.../

AW: /...because the.../

BW: [unclear]

AW: ...yeah...

BW: ...consider yourself part of the committee...?

AW: Yeah. Ok, yeah. Yeah.

BW: You do? Or do, do you consider yourself to be part of that committee or not?

AW: I did at the time. I don't now because, erm, they wanted to, they wanted to work collectively and I wanted to work independently.

BW: Ok. Fair enough. Fair enough, thanks for that.

AW: Which you can see I have, which you can see I have since then.

BW: At that point then I, erm, I have no more questions for you specifically. Erm, if you've got any questions for me, erm, now is the time to ask.

AW: Erm, well you said that you'd not, you know, you can't answer for other, erm, I don't know, what did you just say then to me when I said that I'd had nothing from them...

BW: I can't speak for other members of staff's actions...I'm not responsible...

AW: Yeah, but you can, erm, you know, you can ask them, and what I'd like answers on is, can you tell me now when did Mr Small make a complaint of anti-Semitism? That's just the, simple... they're not clever questions. They're just... can you, can you...tell me when Mr Nick Small made an official complaint that there was any anti-Semitism...?

BW: I can, I can say that he made a complaint of anti-Semitism following the meeting we talked about earlier in the con...

AW: He made a complaint? What date?

BW: I don't have the date to hand but it was as a result of the meeting that took place in April, erm, at which the comments we talked about earlier were made.

AW: So he made a complaint in April?

PAUSE

BW: [unclear]

AW: He made a formal complaint...to the North-West, to the National, to who?

BW: I don't know where the complaint was made to. I was not in receipt of it until I took over this investigation.

AW: You see, well, that's why I'm puzzled. If you can't, if you can't get a simple answer, now you're telling me it was in April that, you know, I'm awful, but you're not telling me who it was made to. I mean have you seen any evidence the complaint was made in April?

BW: Yes.

AW: Verifiable?

BW: Sorry?

AW: Is it verifiable? Is it solid evidence?

BW: Yes.

AW: It is, oh. Well I just don't understand then why none of that, why, why leave me, I don't think many people asked. I didn't wanna know the name. Did, did Louise Ellman ...

BW: All I can comment is that it might well have been that the complaint wasn't against you.

AW: Oh no, the complaint wasn't, how could it have been against me?

BW: Well, well in which case it might well have been that, erm, the, erm, whoever was dealing with it wasn't, wasn't prepared to disclose the information to someone who wasn't involved in the investigation.

AW: Well it is if somebody's gone to the press and said there was const, there was anti-Sem, I mean I don't know whether people don't get it, but it brings the Labour Party, our constituency, into dispute, into disrepute, sorry, when somebody goes to the press and says there's anti-Semitism going on. It should have been dealt with before...

BW: That's something I'll, I'll come back to, er, in response to your individual complaint...

AW: Ok.

BW: [unclear]that forms the basis of your complaint...

AW: Ok. Did Louise Ellman ever make a complaint of anti-Semitism?

BW: I'm not aware.

AW: Not that you're aware. Erm, and what's the other thing? Is, erm, erm, one of the, oh the questions is, are there any complaints against me for anything?

BW: If there were, you'd have been, you'd have been told.

AW: By who?

BW: Ah, ah, as part of this investigation you'd have been told that, but I obviously/

AW: Oh, ok/

BW: ...haven't told you.

AW: Oh ok, so there's no complaints against me. Erm, the other thing is...

BW: If there's been a complaint against you directly, you'd have been informed.

AW: Oh. So that's a no.

BW: Yes. That's a no, there are no complaints...

AW: (laughing) Ok. Erm, what was the other thing? Erm. The anonymous. Erm. Is there any way you can find out who this anonymous source is?

BW: Not that I'm aware of, no.

AW: No, erm.

BW: I, I, I...

AW: Do you accept...?

BW: I, I can assure you, I can assure you that I have tried, erm, but I, obviously, I'm, I'm part of Labour Party staff and not part of police staff so my powers are fairly limited.

AW: Yeah, yeah. Would, don't you think an MP or a, a councillor if they knew anything about this would be obliged to tell you, if you asked?

BW: So, what are you, what are you inferring?

AW: I'm just asking, well hoping, not even inferring, that you asked the question to Louise Ellman and to Mr, er, Small because they seem to, they knew about it before anybody, well they appear to have known about it before anybody, they tweeted at four and five o'clock in the morning ...

BW: All I can say, I'm sure you'll understand, because obviously and I'm sure you'll understand that I'm not at liberty to comment on other interviews and cases I've looked at, err, but having, having attempted to find out who the author of the document was, I was unsuccessful.

AW: Ok. Alright then. Erm. One of, one of my main questions is, erm, isn't it, is it against Labour Party, erm, rules or policy or whatever term you want to use, to use anonymously sourced, erm, information, erm, to, to abuse or discredit or to, erm, against other, fellow....

BW: There's no explicit rule in the book. There's no explicit rule in the rule book about it, no.

AW: Ok.

BW: The, the rule book is formed on, on necessity, if you see what I mean. It's... so because something like this hasn't generally happened before there has been no need to move a motion at Party conference to have a rule about it.

AW: Oh I thought I read an article in *The Guardian* that actually had quotes, quotation marks around it, that this was a new policy, just before the last Labour Conference, erm...

BW: Obviously I can't, I can't speak as to what's in....

AW: Ok. Would you, would you, erm, would you accept that anything that's anonymously authored, erm, isn't credible or should not be considered credible until it's been verified. Would you accept that?

BW: Er, as I, yer, as I've said the investigation is taking it into account. All relevant documentation, but it, the, er, I have said I think fairly explicitly that I am only taking as truth or at least, erm kind of substantive allegation, erm, complaints that I know the author of, or that I know the complainant of .

AW: Ok.

BW: I, I don't accept anonymous complaints ...[unclear]..as I said...

AW: Ok. Yeah, good.../

BW: /As I said../

AW: ...good...good. Well that's great to hear that, that's great to hear that. That's what, you know, that's reassuring that it's not, erm. You know things, erm, can't be underhanded because I

think, you know, even in a, the worst journalist would find it hard to stand by something that's anonymously produced.

BW: I, I, I hope, I hope that I've been, I hope that I've been clear on that. Eerm, I don't think there's anything more to say on the document.

AW: Yeah, but what, what, what it does lead to though, what it does lead to is the fact that you wouldn't rely on that sort of information and the point I'm making in my complaint is that an MP shouldn't. And an MP definitely should not be going round and promoting and quoting and relying on information in a document that's anonymously produced. That's – be very, very clear – that's my complaint. Never mind.../

BW: I, I understand that.../

AW: Never mind, never mind even../

BW: [unclear] the fact that you..

AW: Never mind even if it's somebody's misunderstood something. I can misunderstand something that Louise says, and go round the press and say, and then somebody come back and say, oh, err, I misunderstood her. It's, err, the whole things is, erm, is appalling that your own MP, honestly I do find it hurtful that no... that somebody has gone around with a ...

BW: [unclear interjection]

AW: ...heap, heap of trash, let's face it, a heap of trash. And they haven't even checked it. They've heard something on the radio, I've yet to hear it and be convinced that, you know, it sounded like I said that, but if it did, a heap of trash in other words, hearsay, whispers, which is what I said it was. But if it had its name to it, we could address. If we had the person's name, we could address it, and Louise, who is an MP, should certainly not take information and, and, and, erm, use it, from an anonymous source, to discredit people. And to cause her own constituency to be closed. You know, to be suspended. I just find that absolutely shocking. I feel, I find it shocking, I find it shocking that, erm, Nick Small, erm, has I think, I think you can see from the time line that he's took offence that I've been making enquiries into questioning this, erm, anti-Semitism claims. I think he's took offence at that. He's seen me at a march and he's decided to, erm, to intimidate me, which he certainly did. Erm, and, and, and then within a few weeks of that happening, for my name to be the top of a list of, er, I mean do you know, do you know...

BW: [unclear interjection]

AW: ...you don't realise, you don't realise how laughable that is, when you're, as I say... I mean people have said to me, would you be, you know, would you be interested in doing anything in the, in the constituency and I've said no, because I'm not, I'm not here in the winter, I wish you all the best, and I hope, you know, I hope that you all, erm, you know, build a fantastic movement. I wanna see a million people in our Party, I really do, I wanna see a massive Party, but I haven't got the energy or the health. I suffer from ill health, I've had a, quite a bad, erm summer to be honest with you, erm, with health problems, and, so, err, somebody has put me at the top of that list for some

vindictive reason. Really. And I know who I think it is. And I find it shocking, I find it shocking that the MP's gone along with it, I really do. And Nick Small.../

BW: [unclear interjection]

AW: And I wanna, I do want them to be taken to, to task, I do really, I think...

BW: Oh well.. [unclear]

AW: You wouldn't like it if it were you Ben, would you. If it was you, Ben, would you like any of it, stuff said against you. Any of it?

BW: Obviously not, no.

AW: Would you.

BW: [unclear]

AW: Alright, even take this stuff about my mother out, em, em, I've been a member of the, erm, pensioners for decades.

BW: Yeah, no, I, I appreciate, I appreciate I really do.../

AW: It's stupid. It's stupid. And that you're a dark force!

BW: Erm, erm, I gonna, I'm gonna have to stop you there because the, because the next person I'm speaking to is, is erm, is waiting...

AW: I see. Well that's the MP...

BW: [unclear] Erm, and as I said I will come back to you on your individual complaint, I hope you understand that but I have to prioritise the investigation into the CLP as a whole because, erm, that involves more people, basically, and, and, and the CLP as a whole really, really needed, needed lots and lots of attention. But I can assure you that I am looking into your complaint and I will be, erm, I will be coming back to you on that.

AW: Yea. And, and, and, the other part of the complaint is why didn't the North-West Region didn't respond to me after, three, two emails and a recorded delivery letter. PAUSE. Why didn't the North-West...

BW: As I said, Ah, ah, ah, as I say, I, I, I, as I said I'll look into it and get back to you.

AW: Er, it's as if the whole thing's dysfunctional to me. You know, I'm trying to do everything through correct, I'm trying me best to do it through correct, er, procedures, channels, but erm, I don't think anybody else is. And these people are paid. These are paid officials. Nick Small's paid, Louise Ellman's paid, err, H.'s a councillor, the North-West Regional, Anna and all them, they're all paid. Alan Dean's paid, err, and he hasn't even answered my forty day, er, data, er, request thing. You know...

BW: Yep, yep...

AW: Ok, I'll let you go. Ooo, I know you're in a hurry.

BW: I'll um, I'll come back to you on your complaint, and I appreciate your, your comments on the investigation into the CLP, so thanks very much for that.

AW: Alright, all the best. Listen, nice to speak to you. I'm sorry it's not in good circumstances, but erm

BW: [unclear]

AW: ...but hopefully you'll do everything you can do to pull it together and get us functioning again.

BW: Indeed.

AW: Alright, all the best.

BW: Indeed. Best wishes.

AW: Bye bye, bye bye.

ENDS

40mins 10secs