

Sir Patrick McLoughlin
Cabinet Office,
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Stay Up Late
Dorset Gardens Methodist Church
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31st Oct '17

Dear Sir Patrick

Calling for action from Conservative Party for Nadine Dorries MP for using disability hate speech

On 27th Oct Nadine Dorries tweeted “Window lickin’ Twitter trolls out in force today!”

When she was challenged on her use of this word she claimed she was ignorant of what the term ‘Window Licker’ actually meant.

The quickest of Google searches would have told her it is a vile term used to refer to people with learning disabilities.

When people in Nadine’s position use terms like this they contribute to these words falling in to accepted usage, and at the same time contribute to the further marginalisation of people with learning disabilities in society.

It is shameful that disability hate crime is on the increase in the UK and as an elected representative she surely has a responsibility to tackle this issue, not add to it, by using language responsibly. Language like this just serves to further de-humanise people.

There are 1.4m people with learning disabilities in the UK, a fair few will live in mid Bedfordshire, and some may have even voted for her. I believe she owes it to them to make a full public apology for her tweet.

Whether she knew what the term ‘Windowlicker’ meant or not it makes no difference. Someone in Nadine’s position should act responsibly and not use hateful terms, whether in ignorance or deliberately for some sort of shock effect.

It is a deeply disgusting term that will not only cause upset to people with learning disabilities but also their families, friends, and any body who lives in this country who wants to live in a kind society where everyone feels welcome.

If Nadine had used a racist or homophobic term the media would be up in arms, and I'm certain action would be taken against her. However it is concerning that there has been no apparent comment from the Conservative Party about this incident. People with learning disabilities are often over looked in society, they find it hard to make their voices heard, and are often on the receiving end of abuse. This makes Nadine's words, and inaction, all the more abhorrent.

As the chair of the Conservative Party I am expecting that you will investigate whether Nadine has breached your disciplinary code and insist that Nadine makes a full public apology. (I have also written to Nadine requesting she does this). I would also ask that she makes this apology by video as this would be a more accessible format for people with learning disabilities.

Yours sincerely

Paul Richards
Director