

**The Rt. Hon. Patrick McLoughlin MP,  
Chairman of the Conservative Party,  
4 Matthew Parker Street,  
LONDON,  
SW1H 9HQ.**

**25<sup>th</sup> August 2016.**

**Dear Mr. McLoughlin,**

**Re: Clifford Chance Bullying, Harassment and Inappropriate Behaviour Inquiry**

**I am writing in response to the inquiry ‘summary’ that you published on the 17<sup>th</sup> August 2016, and the accompanying letter that you addressed to us.**

**This letter is not intended to be a legal reply, which will be left to our solicitor to detail in due course. It is a family response and as such will reflect our concerns and disappointment with both your letter and the ‘summary’ which you decided to publish without prior notice to our family. We can only consider that this was a deliberate attempt to ensure that we were unable to answer the inevitable press questions which followed immediately afterwards.**

**We are further disappointed, that following a change of leadership of the Conservative Party, no attempt has been made to directly make contact with us. Any hope that we had that a new broom would attempt to ‘right the wrongs’ of the last year, show how misguided our hopes had been. It appears that a change of personnel is not reflected in a change of attitude.**

**Upon reading your letter, we were taken aback by the sheer arrogance of your summing up of Elliott’s letter of complaint in a mere ‘one and a half’ lines, stating simply that,**

*“The report and summary are both clear that the Conservative Party acted entirely properly in relation to the complaint received from Elliott in August 2015.”*

**The next paragraph then goes onto detail the changes that you are instituting to your ‘not fit for purpose’ complaints procedures; and instituting a ‘code of conduct for volunteer leaders’ – as ‘lessons to be learned’, contradicting your previous comment.**

**In addition now we have had a chance to read the summary we can see that it does not clear the Conservative Party. By its terms of reference, Clifford Chance were required to pay ‘particular attention to the circumstances leading up to Elliott Johnson’s death’ yet the summary expressly excludes ‘the circumstances leading up to Elliott Johnson’s death’. Similarly the findings of the summary ‘do not include details of the Party’s preliminary investigation’. The contents of the report itself have been repressed, even from us, Elliott’s family.**

**As you know, it is our contention that the Conservative Party did not act ‘entirely properly’ towards Elliott and other young volunteers and activists nor in dealing with Elliott’s complaint. Nothing in your letter or the ‘summary’ has reassured us to the contrary.**

**As I said earlier, I do not intend to dwell on the legal aspects of the Clifford Chance ‘summary’ other than to state the obvious. This is a very ‘selective’ publication, which does nothing to answer the many issues that arise from the death of our son, it reads as if its principle objective is to absolve the Conservative Party’s senior management and senior volunteers of any responsibility – and somewhat inconsistently, with blame being attributed to failures in process, or more sinisterly, upon more junior officials for not progressing complaints prior to August 2015, which in itself should shame your party.**

**We as a family had no illusions about the outcome of this ‘whitewash’, which is why we decided not to take part in it. However, many people did, with reservations, give evidence and some have made contact with us to express their dissatisfaction with its outcome, at least one saying that the ‘summary’ did not reflect their evidence. In the interests of transparency and accountability, and to satisfy those witnesses who are unhappy with the report’s ‘summary’, it is now incumbent upon the Conservative Party to release the ‘full’ report and its evidence (respecting the anonymity of those witnesses who have requested it), to ensure that this inquiry is seen to have been conducted properly and its ‘gaps’ in evidence fully explored.**

**Therefore, to respond to your comment that the Conservative Party had acted ‘entirely properly’, it is clear that it ‘did not’ and we intend to continue the full pursuit of justice for our son, who was dedicated to the party he loved, but which failed him in August 2015 and continues to do so now.**

**I look forward to your response. I will release this letter to the press, under embargo until 3pm on Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> August, to do you courtesy of being able to read and respond.**

**Yours sincerely,**

**Ray Johnson.**