



THE LIST

OPEN PETITION TO ALL MPs

14th March, 2018.

We call upon all our elected representatives (MPs) to call a vote of no confidence in the Speaker similar to that of Michael Martin, Common Speaker in 2009.

We have no confidence nor regard in the present Speaker, John Bercow, and we believe he has brought the position of Speaker of the House into disrepute, as well as insulting the electorate. The electorate expects integrity and honesty from their MPs, and even more from the Speaker.

The tradition of the Speaker of the House of Commons is that The Speaker is the chief officer and highest authority of the House of Commons and must remain politically impartial at all times. Speakers do not campaign on any political issues.

Mr. Bercow has recently been spotted displaying a sticker in his car stating 'Bollocks to Brexit'. The majority of this country voted to Leave the EU in the Referendum in June 2016. Mr. Bercow may be entitled to his own opinion, but he **MUST** remain impartial and not campaign on any political issue therefore to display such a rude and impertinent slogan in view of the public, is not only unfitting behaviour of an MP, but vulgar, improper and discourteous to the majority of electorate and not befitting of the position of Speaker of the House. This is not the first time the electorate has seen the Speaker of the House bring the position into disrepute.

- In 2016, John Bercow was accused of covering up the scale of alcohol problems in the Houses of Parliament. He used a controversial loophole in the Freedom of Information Act to withhold information believed to raise concerns about the extent of drinking problems in Westminster's bars, which is subsidised by the taxpayer.
- Mr. Bercow told students in Reading that he voted for Remain in the June referendum on Britain's membership of the EU. Speakers do not campaign on any political issues and must remain impartial.
- The Speaker suggested that eastern European immigrants have more "aptitude and commitment" to work than British people.
- Mr. Bercow's use of expenses has also raised eyebrows – particularly as he took office at the height of the scandal over Westminster perks. He racked up a £172 bill being chauffeur-driven to a conference just 0.7 miles (1.1km) from Parliament. Mr. Bercow also spent £367 taking a car to Luton to deliver a speech on how MPs were restoring their reputation after the expenses scandal – the irony!

- He spent thousands of pounds wining and dining fellow MPs – including more than £2,000 on a “standing down” dinner for his former deputy. A taxpayer-funded £37,000 portrait of the Speaker led to accusations of “vanity”.
- Mr. Bercow spoke in the House regarding the proposed State Visit by Mr. Trump from the USA. Mr. Bercow called for the President of the United States, one of our closest allies, to be banned from speaking in both houses. Mr. Bercow stated ‘an address to both Houses of Parliament is not an automatic right, it is an earned honour,’ and that Mr. Trump’s “racism and sexism” meant that he did not deserve this honour. How Mr. Trump is perceived by Mr. Bercow personally is irrelevant to a state visit of a democratically elected President. Mr. Bercow is insulting the majority of US Citizens. The hypocrisy of Mr. Bercow holds no bounds as he previously welcomed foreign leaders including China’s Xi Jinping and the Emir of Qatar. The speaker of the House is the highest authority of the House of Commons and a privileged position and should always remain politically impartial. He has no idea whether he will be speaking for a majority of the House of Commons, and this is why the Speaker does not express their opinion. If they do not, then they cannot remain neutral and above the political fray.

However, Mr. Bercow made no comment on the State Visit and Address to the House of the Chinese President, even though this country has well documented civil rights issues. There have, in the past, been many visits and addresses by Communist Leaders of the Soviet Union, Mr. Mugabe, and past U.S. Presidents, such as Reagan, Clinton and Obama to name a few, who were never banned.

We therefore Petition that Mr. Bercow be removed from his position as Speaker of the House due to the fact that he has now brought shame on the privileged position and not only does he not carry out his duties, as Speaker of the House, in a decent, diligent manner but by his last action has insulted the majority of Leave voters and those prepared to work towards a positive ‘Brexit’.

By Mr. Bercow stating publicly 'Bollocks to Brexit', the leave voters and those now supporting Brexit, would use his own vernacular and say, "Bollocks to Bercow!"