



**North Somerset  
Deserves Better**

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 North Somerset Labour Party

 [info@northsomersetlabourparty.co.uk](mailto:info@northsomersetlabourparty.co.uk)

**17 March 2024**

**Dear Liam Fox MP**

As a general election approaches and political parties begin campaigning, we are writing to you to seek assurances that neither you nor the North Somerset Conservative Association will use funds which have been donated by Frank Hester.

As you will know, this week Hester's abhorrent racist and misogynistic views became clear. His views fall well below the standard of behaviour the residents of North Somerset expect and it would be wrong for his money to be used for campaigning in North Somerset.

Referring to the MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington — the first black woman elected to parliament and the longest serving black MP — Hester said: "Diane Abbott need[s] to be shot" and "you see Diane Abbott on the TV and [...] you just want to hate all black women because she's there." Hester also said of a female executive that "it would be much better if she died. She's consuming resource. She's eating food that other people could eat."

The Conservative Party accepted £10 million from Hester and his company between May and November 2023, making him your party's biggest ever donor. It has also been reported that the party recently accepted a further £5 million, taking the total received from Hester to £15 million.

While — in good faith — we assume that the Conservative Party was not aware of Hester's views when it accepted his donations, it is only right that you and your party take these new revelations into account and return the donations.

**Yet, Rishi Sunak has refused to return the money.**

Thus, it is your and the North Somerset Conservative Association's responsibility to refuse support from your party if it is funded by Hester's money.

To accept and use that money would be to condone and overlook his deeply disturbing comments. Will you take responsibility and turn down this support?

Yours sincerely

**Julian Morris - Chair, North Somerset Labour Party**

**Adrian Dunkley - BAME Officer, North Somerset Labour Party**