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KERRY LARKE'S OPEN LETTER TO RICHARD OLSZEWSKI LEADER OF CAMDEN COUNCIL



To: Richard Olszewski,
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From Kerry Larke and John Feely

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Letter Two

Dear Richard Olszewski, Leader of Camden Council.

This letter is the second in a four-part series addressed to you and your administration regarding deep-rooted issues within Camden Council and the institutions it oversees. This letter is intended to go into the structure of your Council and how its internal mechanisms are being used not to uphold justice, but to destroy it.

As mentioned in the previous letter, I worked for Camden Council for fourteen years, serving vulnerable people, special needs children, the elderly and people in crisis. In that time, I saw firsthand how Camden's complaint procedures, disciplinary systems and HR protocols are routinely abused to protect the guilty and punish whistleblowers.

I was one of those whistleblowers.

When I raised serious concerns about safeguarding failures and the illegal employment of a foreign national who had been bullying staff and vulnerable service users, I was not protected. I was instead attacked, harassed, mocked for being Irish and Catholic, and eventually sacked on St. Patrick's Day, an action so symbolically cruel I still struggle to understand how any manager could authorise it.

What followed was a campaign of suppression and humiliation. Camden Council's senior management, supported by HR, used complaint processes and internal policies to block and bury evidence of criminal and unethical behaviour. I was told that prior evidence of bullying could not be admitted, because Council policy does not allow patterns of abuse by senior managers to be considered in disciplinary matters. This was not incompetence. This was deliberate shielding of wrongdoing. And I am not alone.

Over the last decade I have met numerous other whistleblowers (people who worked in children's services, housing, social care) each one pressured into silence or forced out. Camden Council's complaint system is a trap, once you try to speak up, you are surrounded by procedural language, contradictory emails, deleted records and the sudden disappearance of support. Internal complaint panels are not independent. Investigations are slow-walked, delayed, or diverted until the matter dies.

This culture of intimidation and cover-up does not protect the borough. It protects the careers of those who should be facing serious scrutiny. In the current climate, Camden Council's complaint structure is a tool of corporate containment, designed to absorb and neutralise criticism without ever letting the public see what has really gone wrong.

You will likely be advised that everything I am saying is just a "personal grievance." But your council's abuse of internal systems is not just a personal story, it's a public issue affecting hundreds of your citizens. I am bringing it to the public square now because the damage being done in silence cannot go on.

Your staff are trained to say all the right things about safeguarding, anti-racism, whistleblower protection and mental health but I know from experience that these words become hollow in Camden when they threaten the careers of senior officials. This letter exists because your borough has no effective checks and balances when it comes to misconduct by its own leadership.

In the next letter, I will present examples of how this culture of silence and suppression extends beyond Camden Council itself, into its relationships with the Metropolitan Police, the Crown Prosecution Service and the regulatory bodies meant to keep public servants accountable.

If this Council is serious about reform, then it must first admit that its internal systems are failing. It is not enough to have good policies simply written on paper. Those policies must be applied to the powerful, not just to the powerless.

Yours Sincerely,
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