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<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2944946/Thousands-British-Muslims-protest-against-Charlie-Hebdo-magazine-publishing-cartoons-Prophet-Mohammed.html>

Dear colleagues

It's been two weeks since I was suspended from labour group for exercising my right to free speech in a personal capacity on facebook. I have not heard anything yet I await the opportunity to tell the true story.

So we have a labour councillor suspended for exercising free speech.

We have labour councillors supporting a demonstration against free speech.

Kind regards

Pete

CLlr.peter Barnett

Dear Paul,

You will be aware that yesterday I was suspended from group by the leader and deputy leader.

I was called into a meeting without the agenda being made known to me to be told it was a formal meeting this prevented me from having the opportunity to bring a friend.

I explained that I had not seen the complaint against me nonetheless they continued the formal meeting.

After the meeting when I was suspended I left the room and went to collect my coat from joes office I told him I had been suspended he said I know.

This clearly indicates that the decision to suspend was taken before I had even had the opportunity to explain the facts.

I was suspended verbally and told region would phone me later that day this has not happened I do not have any reasons in writing and I have not been told what I am charged with.

This is very unsatisfactory and defies natural justice.

Pete

Cllr peter Barnett

Dear colleagues

You would have seen in the guardian the complaint against me I just want to give you my potted version of the events.

The guardian make much of the fact that the exchange took place late into the night, contrary to the view I might be tired and emotional you will know the issue angie and I have with amber after her terrible accident which involves us being up very late caring for her.

You will know I have been suspended, I received a phone call from joe Wednesday night asking me to meet with the leader the following morning when I attended the meeting I was suspended.

I now know from a reliable source that on Wednesday the leader had a meeting with the council of mosques where it was agreed to suspend me.

I will fight for anyone's right to practice their religion

I will fight just as hard for my right not to governed by it.

Kind regards

Pete

See attached

I have been Facebook friends with Shabana for many years, while using Facebook a post from Shabana appeared which was clearly an attempt to justify the murders of the Charlie hebdo cartoonists in Paris.

I responded and said "what the fuck does that mean "Shabana responded with an equally confusing reply so I went back and said.

"Shame the prophet can't speak clearly, still he's always got you to explain "

I then received a telephone call from Paul Douglas the chief whip saying that Shabana was upset that I had used a swear word and asked me to apologise and remove my comments from Facebook.

I complied with his instructions; I apologised on Facebook and removed my comments. I contacted the chief whip and told him I had complied he thanked me and I considered the matter was then resolved.

Shabana then made a formal complaint since I had already apologised on the instructions of the chief whip I am at a loss to understand the continued problem.

The religious discrimination act requires an offence to be either.

Incitement to violence, or incitement to hatred, my comments do neither of these, all other comment fall under the heading of free speech.

If I have breached the council code of conduct I must be told how. Waltham forest has a duty to councillors to advise them of the code and indicate what if any law might be broken.

My posting on Facebook was in a personal capacity not in my position of councillor, there is case law. (Livingstone v Adjudication panel for England) this has become known as the Livingstone defence.

The complaint bears no relationship to the evidence provided, the complaint says there was harassment, and this usually requires a continuous course of behaviour that is absent here it was a Facebook exchange over a few minutes.

I thought of addressing the letter of complaint but none of the evidence supports the letter. There was not any contact between us prior to the Facebook exchange and none since.