

COMPLAINT

The following is a complaint concerning Jasmin Beckett, candidate for Youth Representative on the National Executive Committee, on the grounds she has violated rule 2.2 and 2.6 of the Youth Elections Code of Conduct. Due to the severity of the violation, and in accordance with rule 2.9, we argue Jasmin Beckett should be disqualified by the NEC with immediate effect.

1) Rules Concerned

"2. The Code

2.2 No candidate or persons acting on behalf of a candidate will use their own material or access to publicity to disparage any other candidate"

"2.6 Only officers designated by the NEC will be authorised to issue statements to the media about any aspect of the election procedure. This does not preclude candidates undertaking press, Radio or TV interviews, though under no circumstances should any candidate disparage any other candidate."

"2.9 Any member found to be breaching this code of conduct or knowingly allowing others to do so on her/his behalf will be liable for disciplinary action. The NEC will not hesitate to use its powers of disqualification or suspension to impose sanctions to enforce the code."

2) Case

It is clear from the evidence presented below that Jasmin Beckett has:

- a) Disparaged another candidate, labelling him as antisemitic to a large group of young members.
- b) Encouraged her supporters to disparage another candidate, using their access to publicity via Facebook and Twitter, to label them as antisemitic.

Beckett has therefore violated the rule that *"under no circumstances should any candidate disparage any other candidate"*, and that, *"no candidate or persons acting on behalf of a candidate will use their own material or access to publicity to disparage any other candidate."*

The disparagement that Beckett has made is that her opponent, James Elliott, is, to quote her message to a group of 70 young members, *"an antisemite"*. This accusation is extremely serious, and it would be difficult to imagine a more damaging accusation, electorally or personally, than that of racism.

Due to the severity of this disparagement which was made, coordinated and encouraged by Jasmin Beckett, which spread via Twitter and Facebook and was picked up by mainstream media, it is likely that her opponent will have suffered as a result of her disparagement.

Her disparagement represents a severe violation of the Candidate Code of Conduct and due to this severity, should result in her immediate disqualification from the election.

3) Evidence

- A) *Disparagement of another candidate to a large group of young members by Jasmin Beckett*
- A) Jasmin Beckett, at:
- A) 11.46, “at the end of the day do you actually want an antisemite as NEC rep? Think people need to know” **[Figure 1]**
- B) 11.51, “Think it’s appalling behaviour and the fact he could become the next NEC rep is scary.” **[Figure 2]**
- B) *Encouragement of others to disparage another candidate using their access to publicity by Jasmin Beckett (whilst taking care not to appearing to be supporters)*
- A) Jasmin Beckett:
- A) at 11.44, “Yes share it. They don’t think twice about sharing something when it’s about me/us.” **[Figure 3]**
- B) at 11.51, “So wouldn’t think twice about tweeting about article and linking it to him.” **[Figure 4]**
- C) at 12.18: [Posts photo of times article] “It’s that screen shot that people are sharing if anyone wants to publicly share/question it! Although if you’ve got my twibbon on and you want to go hard please take the twibbon off” **[Figure 5]**
- D) at 12.47: “if you can get GMB to remove support that’d be amazing” **[Figure 6]**
- E) at 12.50: “Just get a few people tweeting saying ‘shocked my union GMB are supporting James Elliot who is antisemitic’ or something??” **[Figure 7]**
- C) *Persons acting on behalf of a candidate public disparaging another candidate, with the knowledge of Jasmin Beckett*
- A) During Facebook chat:
- A) Josh Woolas, at 10.41, “I wouldn’t share it with a Jas twibbon on my profile pic just in case but everyone else should be. Needs to look like genuine complaint about racism and not a smear campaign!” **[Figure 8]**
- B) Tom Jennings, at 11:02, “Let’s just get it out there, via members not connected at all to Jasmin. It’ll speak for itself and snowball, it’s just gotta come from neutral people first.” **[Figure 9]**
- C) Josh James, at 11.14, “I’m going to share it.” **[Figure 10]**
- D) Tom Jennings, at 11.15, “Jasmin can steer clear and reiterate her opposition, whilst James will spend his time convincing his own team to stay on his side.” **[Figure 11]**
- E) Tom Jennings, at 11.26, “at grassroots we’ve gotta ensure this guy isn’t our bloody NEC rep in a week’s time” **[Figure 12]**
- F) Harry Wright, at 11.38, “think it’s worth tweeting james and asking for explanation too” **[Figure 13]**
- G) Thomas Burke, at 12.48, “Asking [GMB] to back Jasmin instead may make it look like we’re approaching this from a factionalism stance” **[Figure 14]**
- H) Mo Ahmed, at 13.02, “As long as it isn’t overtly linked to Jasmin it shouldn’t be an issue We’re just ordinary members who are appalled” **[Figure 15]**
- D) *At several occasions, Jasmin and her supporters recognise what they are doing has to be disassociated from her campaign.*
- A) Jasmin Beckett, at 13:42, “I don’t want my campaign to turn into a negative one as we’ve all worked so hard to keep the campaign positive... As I say you are all free to share what you wish but can we do it away from this campaign” **[Figure 16]**
- B) Jasmin Beckett, at 12.18, “if you’ve got my twibbon on and you want to go hard please take the twibbon off” **[Figure 17]**
- C) Josh Woolas, at 10.41, “I wouldn’t share it with a Jas twibbon on my profile pic just in case but everyone else should be. Needs to look like genuine complaint about racism and not a smear campaign!” **[Figure 18]**
- D) Tom Jennings, at 11:02, “Let’s just get it out there, via members not connected at all to Jasmin. It’ll speak for itself and snowball, it’s just gotta come from neutral people first.” **[figure 9]**

E) Josh James, at 11.14, "I'm going to share it." [Figure 10]

5) Comments

As demonstrated by the evidence above, Jasmin Beckett has made disparaging remarks about her opponent to a large group of young members, stressing that he is "an antisemite" and that it would be "scary" if he were to be elected. This clearly violates rules 2.2 and 2.6 which prohibit a candidate disparaging any other candidate.

Jasmin Beckett has also encouraged her supporters to disparage her opponent publicly, on Twitter and Facebook. At four occasions in the conversation Beckett told her supporters to share or Tweet things, "linking it to him." At one point she even writes, "get a few people tweeting saying 'shocked my union GMB are supporting James Elliot who is antisemitic'", after which one member of the chat proceeded to Tweet "Really hope @GMB_union will reconsider their endorsement of @JFGElliott in the light of his Antisemitic comments." This is clear evidence that Beckett systematically orchestrated the disparagement that took place. This clearly violates rule 2.2 which prohibit members disparaging a candidate on behalf of another.

APPENDIX

Figure 1

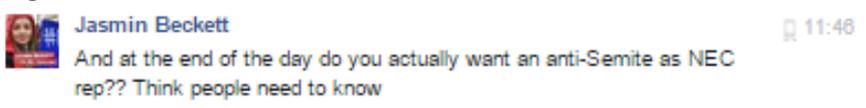


Figure 2



Figure 3

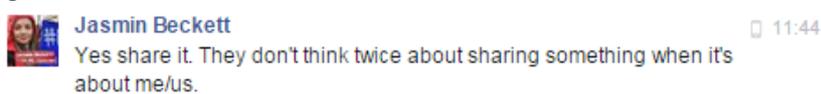


Figure 4

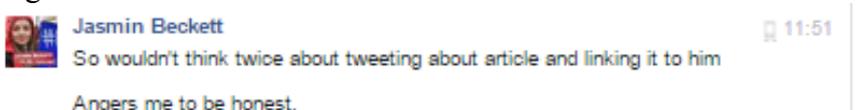


Figure 5



Figure 6

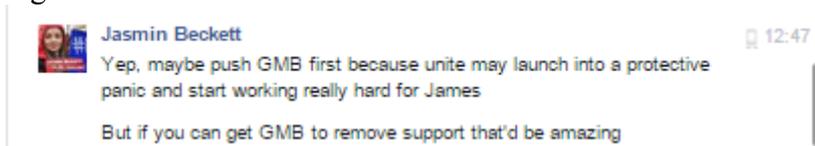


Figure 7



Figure 8

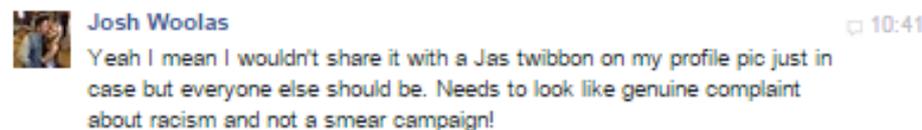


Figure 9

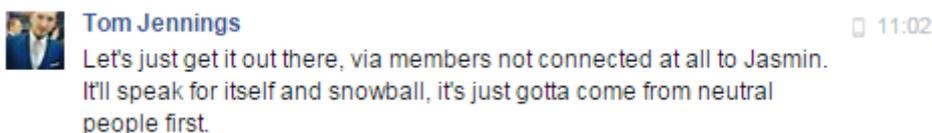


Figure 10

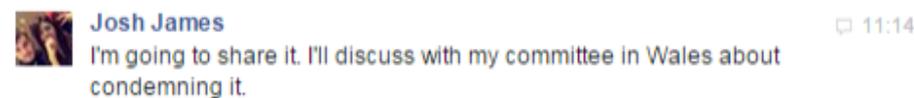


Figure 11



Figure 12

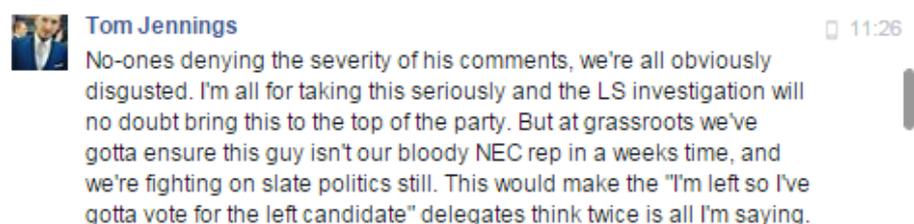


Figure 13



Harry Wright

11:38

think it's worth tweeting james and asking for explanation too

Figure 14



Thomas Burke

12:48

I'd be careful to just ask them to remove support for James and condemn his actions. Asking them to back Jasmin instead may make it look like we're approaching this from a factionalism stance

Figure 15



Jasmin Beckett

13:42

Hey guys, I don't want my campaign to turn into a negative one as we've all worked so hard to keep the campaign positive and primarily for young members.

My sole aim is to make young Labour a better place for all young members to be and not feel victimised hence my anger at the anti-semitism claims this morning.

As I say you are all free to share what you wish but can we do it away from this campaign as I'm still wanting to run a positive campaign for members.

Figure 16



Jasmin Beckett

12:18

It's that screen shot that people are sharing if anyone wants to publicly share/question it! Although if you've got my twibbon on and you want to go hard please take the twibbon off haha

Figure 17



Josh Woolas

10:41

Yeah I mean I wouldn't share it with a Jas twibbon on my profile pic just in case but everyone else should be. Needs to look like genuine complaint about racism and not a smear campaign!