

Suggested Rule Change

To create a Labour Party Ombudsperson

The Labour Party Rule Book 2012 Chapter 1 Constitutional Rules (page 11)

Amendment

Insert new clause X as follows:

There shall be a **Labour Party Ombudsperson**, appointed by the National Executive Committee.

- The Labour Party Ombudsperson shall deal with complaints alleging a breach of (a) the Charter of Members' Rights, and (b) the Labour Party Code of Ethics, in accordance with procedures approved by the National Executive Committee.
- The Labour Party Ombudsperson shall be a Labour Party member and shall be appointed by the National Executive Committee. The Labour Party Ombudsperson shall be appointed to serve for a non-renewable fixed term, which shall not exceed 10 years.
- The Labour Party Ombudsperson shall be independent and impartial; shall be remunerated in accordance with a sum approved by the National Executive Committee; and shall not be removed from office while continuing in membership of the Party except for misconduct or incapacity, following a resolution of the National Executive Committee approved by Conference.

and renumber subsequent clauses accordingly

Supporting argument

The existing rules set out the duties and restrictions on members of the Labour Party but recent experience of top down management of the Party has demonstrated that these rules, and the Party as a whole, would now benefit from a Charter of Members' Rights and an official code of ethics concerning the running of the Party. The enforcement of these rights and duties and the investigation of complaints as to their breach will need to be underpinned by the work of an independent ombudsperson. It is essential that the ombudsperson is accountable to the NEC and that their work does not cut across other NEC functions. However, the ombudsperson must personally be truly independent and command widespread support across the party as a whole.

Closing date for constitutional amendments: 22 June 2012