

Please acknowledge receipt of this Official Complaint.

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For the attention of

Councillor Fran Belbin Leader of Sheffield City Council.

Councillor Zahira Naz Deputy Leader of the Council and Group Spokesperson CPL Committee.

David Hollis, General Counsel

Lyndsay Tomlinson, Assistant Director of Democracy and Governance, at Sheffield City Council

elections@sheffield.gov.uk

All 83 Sheffield City Councillors.

The Parliamentary Ombudsman

Nigel Farage: Leader of Reform UK

MP Richard Tice: Deputy Leader of Reform UK

MP Lee Anderson: [Chairman of Reform UK](#)

Tom Waterhouse: General Secretary, Reform UK

Date: 31st July 2026

Dear, all this is a formal complaint in accordance with [Sheffield City Council](#), [Officers' Code of Conduct](#) And the Reform Party's Constitution.

Reform Sheffield East Branch has just been the victim of a coup d'état.

Initial Complaint

Working for [Sheffield City Council](#) means that your professional responsibilities toward citizens and constituents are guided by formal legal obligations, organizational values, and the [Officers' Code of Conduct](#). While elected councillors have a political and representative duty to their ward constituents, council officers and employees carry a direct operational duty of care to ensure public services are delivered fairly, safely, and lawfully.

I have reported the coup d'état to the Head of Sheffield City Council and received the following response.

On behalf of Councillors Belbin and Naz, thank you for your email.

I can confirm that your complaint has been shared with David Hollis, General Counsel, and Lyndsay Tomlinson, Assistant Director of Democracy and Governance, at Sheffield City Council. They will consider the matters you have raised and respond to you directly.

With kind regards,

Lisa Hattersley
EPA to the Leader & Deputy Leader of the Council
Sheffield City Council

I attended the last Reform Sheffield East Branch meeting at Wadsley Bridge.

Susan Dyas County Coordinator was present, Vicky Horton Chair Reform Sheffield West attended. Vicky's postcode puts her in the Reform East Branch so Vicky is eligible to attend Reform East meetings.

We had followed the correct procedures as before and chose Michael Bell, to be our candidate to stand for Reform Sheffield East Branch in the upcoming by-election in the Southey ward. Although Michael did not win his seat in Hillsborough Thursday 7 May 2026, he received 1802 votes.

I cannot see in the agenda that John Hesketh was invited to speak at our Branch Meeting. John Hesketh is not a member of our branch He is a member of the Stocksbridge and Upper Don Branch.

John Hesketh gate crashed our meeting. He told me to get out of his way as he wanted to speak. I have a walking aid which I moved. He was totally disrespectful to the Chair of our Meeting. Members of Reform East Branch were shocked and horrified at John Hesketh belligerents and disruptive attitude members of the East branch of Reform did not know who he was.

He started ranting and raving that he is the leader of the Reform Councillors in Sheffield Council. And the Reform constitution gave him the right to overturn the East Branch democratic decision to elect Michael Bell and replace him with his own choice of candidate.

Kim Hanson, Chair of Reform East Branch, acted very proficiently. She thanked John Hesketh for his impute and carried on with items on our agenda.

I have read the Reform UK's new constitution and cannot see what John Hesketh is referring to?

Time line of the coup d'etat.

I attended the first Reform canvassing Day for the Southy By-election 27th August 2026. We all met at the medical centre on Foxhill Road. There where 7 of us including Councillor John Booker, Councillor Joel McGigan:

I explained the unusual behaviour of John Hesketh at Reform Sheffield East Branch meeting. We also had a discussion about the **amalgamation** of the two branches. I explained that the **amalgamation** had not been discussed. And although Susan Dyas and Vicky Horton where present at the meeting, there was no announcement about an **amalgamation** of the two branches. I explained that members of the East branch were furious, because they had not been consulted. **John Booker, & Joel McGigan explained the topic of amalgamation of both branches had been in discussion for some time. Between the co-conspirators.** I explain that the members of the East branch have to be involved with discussion about amalgamation to make it legal. This means, **they were involved in a coup d'etat.** I do not think they understand the seriousness of the situation.

The co-conspirators of the coup d'etat are, John Hesketh: Councillor, Stocksbridge and Upper Don, John Booker: Councillor, Stocksbridge and Upper Don, Joel McGigan: Councillor, Mosborough, Vicky Horton: Chair, Reform Sheffield West and Susan Dyas: County Coordinator.

Members of the coup d'etat have colluded behind the back of both Kim Hanson Chair of Reform East Branch, administration and fully paid-up members of Reform Sheffield East Branch.

Kim Hanson, Chair of Reform East Branch and her administration have all resigned in protest to this coup d'etat.

After this coup d'etat I have been investigating.

It seems that the Reform councillors in Sheffield have had a disagreement as to who leads the group. councillor John Hesketh is the current leader of the Group, but his position is not secure. I believe that John Hesketh discovered that The East Branch Nominet (Michael Bell) does not support him. To protect his position, I believe he has run a smear campaign against our candidate to get him disqualified. And promote a candidate that will support him to remain as leader of the Reform group in Sheffield City Council.

In a communication from Vicky Horton, it stated that an investigation was undertaken by head office. But this investigation is one sided as I cannot find anyone from the East Branch that has been contacted. Please give the name and contact details of the investigator from head office, as it looks like he has run a one-sided investigation.

A number of councillors say John Hesketh is a bully. He has been bullying Reform Councillors saying if they speak to me, he will have them removed from the Reform Party. I am a constituent living in Sheffield and a fully paid-up member of the Reform Party. Asking a councillor not to speak to a constituent and a fully paid-up member of the Reform Party, is a violation of my rights.

Many supporters of the East Branch of Reform were looking forward to the campaign to support our candidate for the Southey ward. But now they feel betrayed. John Hesketh disruptive actions have caused great damage to the Reform Party. His actions have caused one Reform councillor to resign and stand as an independent. And a number more councillors are considering whether they would be better off Resigning from Reform Party and become independents.

Kim Hanson and the Administration have followed correct procedures in vetting and voting for candidates to stand as councillors. We had successes at the Thursday 7 May 2026 council elections delivering the following candidates to Sheffield City Council

Successful Reform Sheffield East councillors

Laurence Hayward	2197
Stuart Wallace	1989
Luke Goddard	2153
Yvonne Sykes	2157
Nathaniel Munday	1987
Robert Hanson	1442
Mick Lee	1671

We are all very proud of our Reform Sheffield East Branch.

Is this how Nigel Farage, Richard Tice and Lee Anderson wish to reward the Reform East Branch of Sheffield for all the hard work we put in delivering so many Councillors to Sheffield City Council. Please respond.

Reform UK's new constitution states:

11: DISCIPLINE

Complaints

11.3. Any member "in good standing" may refer the conduct of any other member to the General Secretary who shall act in accordance with the Rules made under this Article and the rules of natural justice.

I will be reporting this coup d'etat, to the General Secretary of Reform.

In my opinion all involved in this coup d'état should be suspended from the party whilst investigations take place.

4.8.4. is later found already to be a member or **former member of another political party** or organisation membership of which the Board has declared to be incompatible with membership of the Party.

In the 2004 local elections [Liberal Democrats](#) John Hesketh became a councillor in Sheffield. How did he become a councillor for Reform? I never voted for him. The Liberal Democrat party is not compatible with the Reform Party.

4.8.7. **engages in behaviour which in the discretion of the Party Chairman brings the Party in to disrepute**; the Party Chairman shall revoke their membership forthwith. Any person whose membership is revoked under this Article may appeal against that decision within 14 days of notification thereof being sent to him. Such an appeal shall then be heard within a reasonable time by a panel composed either of the Party Secretary and two members of the Board or, at the discretion of the Party Secretary, by the Party Secretary and two persons independent of the Party.

Susan Dyas. Last Year I made a formal complaint against Susan Dyas. Susan has friends in Head Office. Although I sent my complaint by recorded delivery to Nigel Farage, Richard Tice & David Bull I received no reply. This time I am not going to let it go.

Our Branch had trouble last year. Susan Dyas had received a number of complaints regarding Mark the then chair of Reform East Sheffield. Susan Dyas Phone me up and ask for my complaints regarding Mark. I explained that Mark was acting irrationally. He was allowing supporters of Tommy Robinson and Advance UK to disrupt meetings. Also, Mark was systematically removing loyal members of Reform and replacing them with Advance UK Supporters. It was obvious that Mark and other members of Reform had Joined Advance UK. Susan stated because of the serious nature of the complaints she was launching an enquiry. Mark had verbally attacked Vicky and Mathew of the Reform West Branch. I met with them and we had a video conference with Susan Dyas. Susan took all the evidence and said she would share the results of her investigation. I was invited to Reform Sheffield west's first meeting. I had hoped to have a discussion with Both Susan, Vicky and Mathew. But Susan refused to see me. I cornered her at the end of the meeting. She stated that she had investigated all the complaints but said that Mark and her view had done nothing wrong. I could not believe what I was hearing. Susan said it would be too dangerous for me to attend Reform East Branch Meetings, because of my health problems. I took this a Vaill threat. I am 73-year-old, my wife did not want me to go so I did not. In my opinion, Susan Dyas handled the situation very badly.

Discrepancy with the numbers of members at the Reform Sheffield East Branch. This needs investigating.

Susan Dyas Had received a number of complaints about Mark. She phoned me and asked what my complaints were. I explained that Mark was systematically replacing loyal members of Reform with supporters of Tommy Robinson and Advance UK. I requested that Susan look up the membership of Sheffield. Whilst I stayed on the phone Susan explained that looking on records, at that time, shows **Sheffield has 5,762 fully paid-up Members.**

I had been researching the membership of Reform UK; I found out at that time that there were 247,805 members, Susan Dyas informed me that Sheffield has 5,762 fully paid-up Members

Only about 3,000 in Sheffield, East Branch 2,000 in Sheffield, West Branch and 1,000 in Stocksbridge. Not many for the 4th biggest city in the UK. This needs investigating.

Following up from complaints from many fully paid-up members of Reform

Sheffield East: Members were receiving communications from head office but no communications with branch admin. I asked Susan Dyas if Mark has a problem with admin. Susan said that Mark is clamming for 5 admin staff? Many members wished to take part in Branch meetings and canvassing but could not communicate with the branch for information as to the date and time?

Last year it was Advance UK that infiltrated our branches. Now they have amalgamated with Restore, I believe someone who has access to the Reform Database is feeding information to the Restore. Many members are informing me that they are being targeted by Restore. Who say they will give them a better deal. I fear we are losing members because of this. It needs investigating.

Some members thought that Susan may be a recruitment agent for Advance UK. I could not verify this. But at that time Advance UK was infiltrating many branches. I received the email from

Sandra Douglas Smith (I believe Sandra maybe from the Carlile Branch)

Am I right to be concerned?

Today in notifications: An admin changed the name of the group Reform UK standing to BEN & ADVANCE UK FOR THE NORTH OF ENGLAND.

I had been sent information from Nigel Farage, David Bull and Richard Tice. The information was to be published on Facebook pages. I Publicised it on my own Facebook pages, but when I tried to post on Reform East Branch my post was taken down. **Was this by Susan or Mark?** I posted on the West Facebook Pages, where they received much support. **Susan Dyas removed my posts from the West Branch, no reason given.**

Susan Dyas Had received a number of complaints about Mark. She phoned me and asked what my complaints were. I explained that Mark was systematically replacing loyal members of Reform with supporters of Tommy Robinson and Advance UK. I requested that Susan look up the membership of Sheffield. Whilst I stayed on the phone Susan explained that looking on records, at that time, shows **Sheffield has 5,762 fully paid-up Members.**

Why had **Susan Dyas** informed **Mark Harrop** he only had **500 members?** And Vicky from the West Branch has only about **1,200 members?**

At the Reform Sheffield East Meeting, I asked Kim Hanson, how many members the Reform Sheffield East Branch now has. I believe she said about 1,060. I said that I thought that we had **about 3,000** this is what **Susan Dyas had previously told me.**

Why are the branch admin being misinformed about the true total of members in their Branch? This needs investigating.

When Mark was Chair, every time I attended branch meeting, they never had my membership number 285963. I was always put down as a guest?

Background information regarding myself.

My Name is Michael Meredith, before retiring I ran a number of businesses. I also worked for Sheffield City Council in the Education Department. Whilst working for the education department I had occasion to work alongside the Fraud squad. An education service provider had been defrauding the Government of Millions of £. I was instrumental in closing them down.

My involvement with Brexit and the Reform Party.

I never wanted to join the EU in my opinion this was the worst decision the UK has ever made. Along with many others I lost business. So, I have always supported Brexit. I was a member of the Brexit Party. I worked to help our candidates to obtain their seats in the EU Parliament. I was so pleased when Nigel Farage and our team delivered Brexit. I was also chosen to be a Brexit Party observer in The General Election, at the count for the Sheffield South East Ward.

We all thought that Boris Johnson was going to deliver Brexit. His problem was the Westminster crowd who never wanted Brexit and have continued to block it to this day. Nigel Farage and the Reform Party are the only party that will deliver the Brexit that the nation Voted for.

I joined the Reform Party. I received my welcome letter from Nigel Farage My postcode is S206SG this puts me in the Reform Sheffield East Branch. I have attended many Branch meetings and spent hours canvassing for Candidates in the East of Sheffield.

Thank you for listening to my concerns

Kind Regards

Michael Meredith