

Second Audio Recording of the 19 March Meeting

1 **J Pesutto** We've had quite a long discussion where we fleshed through everything. The
2 long and short of it, Moira, is [00.30] as a group we don't think a statement will work. The
3 damage is deep and a statement won't get us there. And what I'm going to do is ask the Party
4 Room to support a motion to remove you from the Parliamentary Party. I'm sorry it's come to
5 this, and it's not done personally. I have to put the team first and nothing I think about gets past,
6 gets me past the concern I have that the damage [01.00] to the team and our prospects is too
7 severe. The Party Room will decide, but I'll put it to them that in the circumstances for the
8 reasons we've gone through today, that's what I'm going to do. If you wanted to, you could
9 resign in the meantime but that's a matter for you, I can't force anything on that front. It would
10 save everyone a whole lot of, you know, the energy that goes into these things but, Moira, I'm
11 going to proceed on that basis. If you do want to resign, [01.30] let me know, but I propose to
12 advise the Party Room immediately. I won't have a formal motion done, but I will get that out
13 as soon as I possibly can. Again, I'm very sorry it's come to this. But I just don't feel I have a
14 choice. And again, at the risk of repeating myself, it's not personal, I'm putting the team first
15 and I just feel I need to do that. I'm sorry we kept you waiting so long but we did have - we
16 did exhaust every possible angle of the issues, [02.00] we don't do this with any joy at all, but
17 it's necessary in my view to bring it before the Party Room. In terms of process, when a motion
18 is circulated, it would come from me. I need to move it, I need to give 5 days' notice, so that
19 would - if I can get a notice out tomorrow it would be the business day that, the 5 days
20 excluding any business days [02.30]. So, I imagine that would be on the Monday or Tuesday
21 but there would be 5 days there and then my understanding of the process is that you'll be given
22 a chance to address the Party Room I think is what happens. I wasn't there when Bernie went
23 through the same thing, but I stress that the reasons for it relate to the matters concerning links
24 of people to self-confessed and self-professed Nazis which we just cannot take that on as a
25 party. [03.00] We are committed to winning in 2026 and this stuff will ensure that we don't win
26 and I'm already being attacked again on social media but this time by ministers of the
27 government who are already gunning for me this week. It's not going anywhere. So, Moira,
28 I'm sorry it's come to this but that's where I've landed.

29 **M Deeming** OK, thank you.

30 **J Pesutto** Thanks for coming in. [03.30]

END [3.40]