

Leader of the Labour Group
Councillor Stefano Borella



Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE
Leader of the Council

Civic Offices
2 Watling Street
Bexleyheath
Kent DA6 7AT
020 3045 3633
Stefano.Borella@bexley.gov.uk

15 December 2021

Dear Teresa

I am sure you will have seen the photograph published by the Daily Mirror of a party hosted on 14 December 2020 by your London Assembly Member and Mayoral Candidate Shaun Bailey at Conservative Campaign HQ.

At the time, London was in Tier 2 restrictions which banned any social mixing between households indoors. Hours before the party, it was announced that the capital would move into tougher Tier 3 restrictions.

Having studied the photograph it would appear that Blendon and Penhill Councillor Adam Wildman was in attendance at the illegal party and is standing next to Mr. Bailey in the photograph.

I understand that the Conservative Party have issued the following statement on the matter:

“Senior CCHQ staff became aware of an unauthorised social gathering in the basement of [CCHQ] organised by the Bailey campaign on the evening of 14th December. Formal disciplinary action was taken against the four CCHQ staff who were seconded to the Bailey campaign.”

According to his LinkedIn profile, Councillor Wildman was at the time employed as a political director by the Conservative Party and the question must therefore be asked whether he was one of the four staff disciplined by the Conservative party when they became aware that their staff had broken the law on their own premises.

In addition, you will be aware that all Bexley Councillors upon their election to office agree in their written declaration that they will on all occasions both act lawfully and lead by example and act in a way that secures public confidence in the role of Councillor.

Given the emergence of this photo and the serious questions it raises regarding an elected Conservative Party Councillor, I would be grateful if you could confirm the following:

- Whether Councillor Wildman holds the Conservative whip and that he remains Chair of the Pensions Committee and Vice Chair of the Resources and Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee?
- Whether you were aware of his attendance at the illegal party when he was appointed to these two roles in May 2021?
- Given their investigation, the date on which the Conservative Party informed you and your Chief Whip that one of your councillors had attended an illegal party held on their own premises?
- That you and your Chief Whip will co-operate with and hand over any documentation to the Metropolitan Police relating to Councillor Wildman's attendance at the party?
- That you will join me in reporting Councillor Wildman to the monitoring officer in order that she can investigate whether he has breached the general principles of Councillor conduct by failing to act lawfully and lead by example and act in a way that secures public confidence in the role of Councillor?

Given the public interest in this matter, I am releasing this matter into the public domain.

Yours sincerely

Leader of the Labour Group