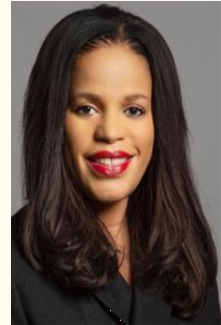




Claudia Webbe MP

Member of Parliament for Leicester East
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Tel: 07973816885

Rt Oliver Dowden MP
Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
House of Commons,
London
SW1A 0AA



14th December 2020

Dear Oliver,

RE: BBC Inquiry

I am writing to you regarding the latest report of bullying and racism within the BBC.

As you may be aware, a BBC freelance producer tragically attempted to end their life last month over 'continued bullying' within the organisation. In a lengthy open letter to BBC management, the producer said that "“a direct trigger for this suicide attempt was as a result of continued workplace bullying in the form of passive and micro aggression, covert assertions, antagonistic behaviours and relentless rumours pertaining to my personal life.” They felt apprehensive of using the appropriate complaint channels due to their treatment throughout previous escalations of complaints, and that they felt 'gaslit' when they attempted to raise their concerns.

As a taxpayer-funded body of huge national significance, the BBC must reflect values of diversity and tolerance. We know that institutional racism exists across our society, and it is incumbent on the BBC to ensure that all African, Asian and minority ethnic staff are protected and valued.

It is especially concerning that, over recent months, there have been multiple accusations of racism within the BBC. These include the denial of career development opportunities, being bullied and then silenced by ineffective complaints procedures, and mental and physical poor health as a result of their racist mistreatment. It is vital that the BBC takes these complaints seriously and reviews its internal structures to ensure that all staff feel welcome and secure.

I urge your government to embark on a full, public inquiry into the accusations of institutional racism within the BBC. I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Claudia Webbe MP

Member of Parliament for Leicester East

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