7<sup>th</sup> September 2020

To the Information Commissioner

Dear Madame,

I have very serious concerns regarding the below tweet posted by the Organisation WBUK in relation to the ICO. Many people would view the below tweet as evidence of bias and impropriety, should the assertions made be true.

"Conversations with the ICO relating to organisations who fail to meet their obligations under the legislation are ongoing. It has been confirmed that Charities are not exempt from providing personal data"

WBUK and Halford Hall are conducting a malicious campaign of unfounded allegations against this Charity motivated solely by our disclosures of their serious misconduct.

The WBUK Halford Hall false allegations to the ICO, which were not investigated by the ICO due to absolutely no supporting evidence being submitted to the ICO by WBUK.

However, the ICO should have clearly stated this at the time as had this been done, the malicious complainant could have been identified and stopped much sooner. As it is the same malicious complaints have been submitted to the Charity Commission causing severe disruption and distress to this Charity, which is bad enough at any time but with over 300 live helpline cases as a result of the Covid crisis, all rated high risk, it is of grave concern.

As we were **never** informed by the ICO at any point that allegations had even been made by the malicious complainant, we were completely denied any opportunity of a defence.

The Halford Hall WBUK letter of complaint to the ICO obtained via FOI is included in the attached recently published document, The Naked Truth our first opportunity to respond in full to the WBUK Halford Hall Malicious allegations.

Whilst the ICO did not investigate the malicious allegations, it had a duty of care to ensure where malicious unfounded allegations are made to identify these and state these facts. The ICO in failing to act has allowed this vexatious individual to repeat these same allegations to the Charity Commission.

This has caused considerable waste of resources to this Charity and to the Charity Commission who have a duty to investigate.

The recent Tweet From WBUK is evidence of an organisation who are in a position of power as a parliamentary secretariate and Halford Hall as director of strategy and policy mis-using their position to exert influence on the ICO to further their agenda of malicious attacks on a charity who has exposed their serious misconduct.

The Tweet clearly implies that Charities should hand over information regardless of whether that information came via a confidential helpline.

Ms Halford Hall WBUK may well have targeted witnesses who have given written statements regarding WBUK Halford Hall misconduct, those witnesses who gave evidence to us in complete confidence must be protected also. This is the Information that Halford Hall WBUK seeks.

You will understand the serious implications this has raised and for that reason this letter is being copied to <a href="The Commmittee For Standards In Public Life">The Commmittee For Standards In Public Life</a>

There must be full disclosure of all contacts between the ICO and Halford Hall, WBUK, the APPG on Whistleblowing and individual members associated with these entities, all correspondence including telephone, email contacts or other. Consider this an FOI.

This Charity has effectively whistle blown on WBUK and has been targeted with malicious allegations as a result, WBUK have mis-used their public office role to carry out a campaign of harassment, the ICO and the Charity Commission are being used to further this agenda and I cannot stress the seriousness of this matter and the legal implications involved.

Yours Sincerely

Eileen Chubb