



Registered Charity: 1102282

# Compassion in Care

Breaking the chain of elderly abuse  
Complacency - Ignorance - Denial - Silence

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16th June 2020

The Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1A 2AA

Dear Mr Johnson

**Subject: Whistleblowing - All Sectors**

I write with regard to serious concerns about the erroneous, harmful and highly offensive information that is being circulated with the endorsement of MPs via the APPG on Whistleblowing.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020, Mary Robinson MP wrote to Matt Hancock in her role as chair of the APPG on whistleblowing stating in this published letter the following assertions:

*“The UK was the first EU country to introduce legislation to protect whistle-blowers in 1998. The Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 (PIDA) was a Private Members Bill introduced by Conservative MP Sir Richard Shepherd and addressed the issues which were relevant for that time.”*

**This is highly offensive to the victims of Isard House care home, whose abuse and torture was upheld after an inquiry by the PIDA-prescribed regulator. The subsequent BUPA 7 PIDA tribunal case excluded the regulator’s evidence. The first PIDA case failed because the law was flawed so how dare Mary Robinson and those involved with this APPG state that PIDA “addressed the issues which were relevant for that time”?**

**PIDA has failed to protect whistleblowers from that very first case and has resulted in those who abuse and torture vulnerable people being allowed to continue unchecked. The abuse suffered by Edna and others is as relevant now as it should have been then. Look at Winterbourne View and Whorlton Hall abuse amongst many other cases – all could have been stopped much earlier.**

Compassion In Care to Boris Johnson 16.06.20

**Mary Robinson's comments are an insult and reveal a staggering degree of ignorance about whistleblowing and legal history. It is impossible to draft effective whistleblowing law without full knowledge of what is wrong. Mary Robinson has taken the view that a line can be drawn through such injustice and in doing so it is tantamount to her saying that it does not matter.**

After being completely failed by PIDA, the BUPA 7 were in Parliament, meeting MPs about the injustice of PIDA and I recall seeing you in the lobby that day. Little did I know then that so many years later I would be still be fighting for justice - justice for the first case that the law failed and justice for all those who have been failed since, victims and whistleblowers.

**I want a public apology to the victims of Isard House and to all those who have suffered since the first PIDA case failed to protect them.**

Mary Robinson's letter stated "*There has been a significant increase in the number of people speaking out from within NHS Trusts and Care Homes. In our survey last year over 50% (Incorrect 46.6% - see their own report) of the respondents were from Health and Social Care, and since 3rd March over 90% of the enquiries received by WhistleblowersUK, our secretariat, are from this sector with over 80% from within NHS Trusts*"

**I draw your attention to the following: there is not a single piece of work published on the WhistleblowersUK (WBUK) website since the start of the COVID crisis. Contrast this lack of evidence with our published helpline data for the same time period (please see links at end of letter). Please rely on the evidence at all times. Too many politicians and journalists fail to verify the claims made by WBUK.**

WBUK was quoted by Sky News as claiming that "[\*Up to 20% of the calls they have received are from people working in the care sector who have been furloughed\*](#)", but Mary Robinson's letter of 22.06.20 states in effect that less than 10% of contacts to WBUK were from the care sector.

Can you explain the fundamental discrepancies in these WBUK numbers?

Secondly can you explain how care staff could have been furloughed at a time when they were ineligible for furlough (even though the furlough rules may have changed later) because their care sector employers were never "*unable to operate or have no work for you to do because of coronavirus*".

We note that Mary Robinson wrote: "*We have particular concerns regarding transparency and accountability*". So did Sir Norman Lamb when he resigned from the APPG, writing to the WBUK CEO: "*...I do believe fundamentally*

*in transparency and being accountable to members of the public who ask questions.....I have no option but to stand down from the All Party Parliamentary Group on Whistleblowing.”*

**Do you think that Mary Robinson and other MPs should be reciting unreliable data from an organisation with so much documented evidence against it?**

Thirdly as WBUK have no published helpline telephone number, please explain how anyone can be quoting the number of calls received, let alone MPs?

Most whistleblowers who contact our helpline (to date over 8000) do not want to give their names and we work with them over time, sometimes months, to gain trust. It is simply not credible to run a whistleblower helpline without a telephone number.

I note that Mary Robinson refers to WBUK appearing on BBC Newsnight on May 14<sup>th</sup>. We had to decline a request from Newsnight on the same day due to the volume of helpline work. Every time WBUK are given a public platform we have to shoulder an increased number of concerns from whistleblowers raising concerns about WBUK.

Part 2 of our evidenced reports on the Misconduct of WBUK will be published as soon as possible, meanwhile please read Part 1:

<https://compassionincare.com/misconduct-wbuk>

The proposal for an Office for the Whistle-blower is a disastrous and dishonest attempt to promote bounty hunting and to give the appearance of protection whilst no such protection would be given in reality.

You will find not a single reference to suffering and abuse in Mary Robinson’s letter, nor will you find anything that is of relevance to genuine whistleblowing. Please see [\*\*\*There Is No ME In Whistleblowing\*\*\*](#) to understand the issues and why we are fundamentally opposed to the agenda of WBUK, APPG and their corporate funders.

The APPG and WBUK were set up with the intention from the beginning to have an Office for the Whistleblower. Regardless of any evidence they might receive, that was always going to be their intended outcome.

Having run a genuine helpline (ie with a telephone) for two decades, supported over 8000 whistleblowers and 5000 families of victims of abuse, I can prove that the current proposal to rely on regulators to investigate abuse because the “Office for the Whistleblower” tells them to, is not only stupid, it is grossly negligent and Mary Robinson clearly indicates that the lynchpin for their proposed law is exactly such a misguided reliance.

I am putting this on the record again: **only a full retrial of all the evidence with a remit to give restitution and accountability for all historic cases of whistleblowing injustice, not only the BUPA 7, is acceptable to us. A jury and an acceptable judge must try the cases.**

**The full implementation of [Edna's Law](#) to protect all future whistleblowers is essential.**

I will write to you shortly about the separate issue of your COVID policy in care homes.

Yours sincerely



**Eileen Chubb  
Founder & Director of Compassion In Care & Co-Founder of The Whistler**

Compassion In Care's reports re the COVID Crisis

<https://compassionincare.com/covid19-social-care-crisis>

<https://compassionincare.com/shield-vulnerable-except-those-care>

<https://compassionincare.com/voices-front-line-home-care>

<https://compassionincare.com/half-all-covid-deaths>

<https://compassionincare.com/care-industry-billions>

<https://compassionincare.com/when-silence-wins-covid-crisis-helpline-data-4-whistle-blowing>

<https://compassionincare.com/truth-must-speak-louder>

<https://compassionincare.com/helpline-report-5-covid-ongoing-damage>

<https://compassionincare.com/covid-19-care-home-policy>

<https://compassionincare.com/bodies-truth-being-buried>

<https://compassionincare.com/testing-company-culture>

<https://compassionincare.com/locked-down-scrutiny-open-covid>