



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

**Trial of Thomas Mair - guidelines for colleagues on contempt of court.**

It is clear to everyone that proceedings are now active, given the charges and court appearance on Saturday. We thought it would be helpful to provide some guidance to colleagues on the issue of contempt of court as none of us would wish the proceedings to be inadvertently affected.

Colleagues should please refrain from publicly discussing or passing comment on the facts of this case until the conclusion of the trial. Colleagues should particularly refrain from any form of vilification of the defendant prior to the conclusion of the trial.

It is important that nothing is said or done which could prejudice the defendant from having a fair trial and that ultimately, justice is done.

Colleagues should keep in mind that 'publication' includes speeches, writings or other communication in whatever form, including social media activity, which is addressed to the public at large or any section of the public'. [Section 2. Contempt of Court Act 1981].

Please be aware of the risk of culpability if any publication is deemed by the court to reveal matters which might be inadmissible in evidence and which may influence jurors or by commenting on the merits of the case or prejudicing it, vilification of the suspect under arrest, or publicly disclosing sensitive material that is subject to a court order restricting such disclosure.

Our advice is that there should be no further substantive comment on the case, except for the wish that it is thoroughly investigated so that justice can take its course. Colleagues may wish to share this advice with their local CLPs, trade unions and solidarity groups and we would welcome that.

Handwritten signature of Karl Turner in black ink.

Karl Turner MP  
Shadow Attorney General

Handwritten signature of Jo Stevens in black ink.

Jo Stevens MP  
Shadow Solicitor General