

# Green Party calls for police to take over Partygate investigation



13 January 2022

- **Jenny Jones: “This is clearly a matter for the police”**
- **Carla Denyer: “Police should be doing their job without fear or favour”**

The Green Party has called for the police to take over the investigation into Partygate. The call follows Green peer Jenny Jones’s latest letter to the Met Police Commissioner questioning their failure to investigate the breach of lockdown. [1]

Green Party peer Jenny Jones said, “Since Boris Johnson’s admission of a party at 10 Downing Street, this has clearly become a matter for the police, not an internal inquiry to be carried out by a colleague of the people who attended these gatherings. Sue Gray may be independent minded but this is not an independent inquiry. Her inquiry is owned by the Prime Minister and she has to check its publication with him. Given that civil servants have a duty not to embarrass the Prime Minister, I think it would be best if all her evidence is handed over to the Met Police and that they dig out the CCTV recordings of the garden party that their officers have sat on.”

Green Party co-leader Carla Denyer said, “There’s little reason to believe that Boris Johnson will take seriously an inquiry being led by a civil servant who is ultimately answerable to himself. Government ministers must not be allowed to consider themselves above the law. The Prime Minister’s alleged breaking of lockdown rules must be taken up by the appropriate body – the police – who should be doing their job without fear or favour.”

## **Notes**

1 <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/downing-street-party-met-police-witness-b1991716.html>

[Back to main news page](#)

[Adblock test \(Why?\)](#)

---

## Green parliamentarians call on Labour

# to “stand up against this government” over right to protest



12 January 2022

Green Party parliamentarians, elected representatives and members gathered outside Parliament today [Wednesday] to protest the draconian measures in the Policing Bill and urge Labour to join them in standing up against the government.

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill has reached the House of Lords this week, where crucial votes will be held to defend the right to effective protest, culminating in a decisive vote on Monday [17 January].

The Green Party has called on Labour and independent members of the House of Lords to stand up for the right to take part in peaceful protest, which they say will be removed by the Bill.

Dozens of Green Party members and representatives attended the Covid-safe protest outside Parliament today to hear speeches from parliamentarians Caroline Lucas, Jenny Jones and Natalie Bennett and London Assembly member Zack Polanski.

Baroness Jenny Jones said:

“It’s not easy to change legislation, but here we really can make a difference. The problem we have is that Labour is not onside, it is dithering.

“So what we are trying to do is get national Labour, Yvette Cooper and Kier Starmer, to understand that these measures suppress genuine dissent with the government. It’s a Belarus-style move by our horrible government.

“We can stop it if Labour is onside.”

Baroness Natalie Bennett said:

“If we don’t have protest, we will have even worse government and council policies than we have now.

“Jenny has set out how we have a real opportunity in the House of Lords. It’s all down to the Labour peers, that they stand up against the government, stand up for rights that so many Labour people over more than a century have actually used and have been essential to get rights for working people.

“We have a message to Labour, you have to stand up against this government, you can stop these dreadful amendments now, you’ve got to do it.”

Caroline Lucas MP said:

"Priti Patel has said that she intends to use the Bill to criminalise people taking part in climate-related protests. But the sweeping powers of this Bill could be used against anyone who falls foul of what the home secretary decides is acceptable.

"The threat to democracy goes way beyond party politics, and we are calling on MPs of all parties and members of the House of Lords to stand up for human rights and reject this extremely dangerous and anti-democratic Bill. Whatever the home secretary believes, protest is a fundamental right in our democracy, not a crime. It must be protected."

Zack Polanski AM said:

"These are not acts of a government that think they're in charge. This is an act of a government who think they're cornered, that the power of the people is coming and they know that we have the ethical and moral responsibility and duty on our side.

"And we are challenging them and it's working because they are hearing. We need to keep this up, Labour need to join us, hear the call loud, hear it clear, because we're here and we're not going away."

## Notes

### 1

Photos and footage of the event are available from the Green Party press office: [press@greenparty.org.uk](mailto:press@greenparty.org.uk) / 0203 691 9401

[Back to main news page](#)

[Adblock test \(Why?\)](#)

---

# Government ministers are not above the Law



12 January 2022

Responding to today's High Court ruling that the Government's use of "VIP lanes" for granting contracts during the pandemic was unlawful [1], Green Party co-leader Carla Denyer said:

"This is a tremendously important ruling. When Conservative ministers dodgily chose to give contracts to their mates rather than getting best value for the

country and the NHS, they not only wasted taxpayers' money, their actions also put lives at risk.

"Government ministers are not above the law, despite what they seem to believe. We now need constitutional reform to prevent the abuse of power that Conservatives have indulged in happening in the first place."

## NOTES

1

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2022/jan/12/use-of-vip-lane-to-award-covid-ppe-contracts-unlawful-high-court-rules>

[Back to main news page](#)

[Adblock test \(Why?\)](#)

---

# Gove announcement on cladding fails to wrap up issue of hazardous homes, says Carla Denyer



10 January 2022

Responding to the announcement by Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, that developers must pay to fix the cladding crisis that they created [1], Green Party co-leader and Bristol City Councillor, Carla Denyer, said:

"Michael Gove's announcement that developers will be expected to foot the bill for replacing dangerous cladding is welcome, but the issue is far from wrapped up.

"He is relying on the goodwill of developers, far too many of whom have already shown themselves to be irresponsible and motivated by profit rather than safety.

"And there has been no acknowledgement of the stress and anxiety the government has put thousands of households through by delaying action.

"The government focus is on cladding and it is unclear how non-cladding fire hazards such as wooden balconies and missing fire doors will be addressed.

“Developers must also be required to address defects in council and social housing. It’s completely unacceptable that these costs should fall on housing associations or councils whose budgets are already at breaking point.”

“I have heard from so many people affected by this scandal, in Bristol and beyond. They need to feel completely secure in their homes, so if this really is to be an overhaul of government policy on housing safety, all hazards must be addressed, not just headline-grabbing cladding.”

“We also need clarity of government action and government funding to enable homeowners to shut the door on the awful limbo they have been living in for the past five years.”

## Notes

[1] [Government forces developers to fix cladding crisis](#)

[Back to main news page](#)

[Adblock test \(Why?\)](#)

---

# [Green Party protest urges Labour to oppose Policing Bill as it reaches House of Lords](#)



10 January 2022

The Green Party has urged Labour to oppose the dictatorial powers within the Policing Bill as it reaches the House of Lords this week.

Green Party parliamentarians Caroline Lucas, Jenny Jones and Natalie Bennett and London Assembly member Zack Polanski will be joining a socially-distanced protest in Parliament Square on Wednesday 12 January to defend the right to protest [1].

Crucial votes have started on amendments this week to defend the right to effective protest, this will culminate in a decisive showdown with the government next Monday (17 January).

The Green Party is calling on Labour and independent members of the House of Lords to stand up for the right to take part in peaceful protest, which they say will be removed by the government’s Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill.

The protest will be a Covid-safe event where those attending will be expected to socially distance and masks will also be available. [2]

Baroness Jenny Jones, who has been leading opposition to the Policing Bill in the House of Lords, said: "The Government is trying to take away our democratic freedom to protest, but in the next few days we have a unique opportunity to stop some of the worst measures outright in the Lords. Laws that give the police the power to stop people attending demonstrations who have no criminal conviction and to stop and search without suspicion.

"Boris Johnson once promised to lay down in front of the bulldozers if they expanded Heathrow, now he wants a year in jail for anyone doing that. We need Labour and others to vote with us, in deleting these draconian laws from the Police Bill."

Caroline Lucas MP said: "Priti Patel has said that she intends to use the Bill to criminalise people taking part in climate-related protests. But the sweeping powers of this Bill could be used against anyone who falls foul of what the home secretary decides is acceptable.

"The threat to democracy goes way beyond party politics, and we are calling on MPs of all parties and members of the House of Lords to stand up for human rights and reject this extremely dangerous and anti-democratic Bill. Whatever the home secretary believes, protest is a fundamental right in our democracy, not a crime. It must be protected."

Baroness Natalie Bennett said: "Many of the rights we enjoy today would not have been achieved without protest, including women's right to vote. The statue of Millicent Fawcett, where we will be gathering, commemorates the suffragists' long struggle. Boris Johnson attended the unveiling of this statue in 2018, but his government is now planning to criminalise the very forms of protest used by these brave women."

London Assembly member and Green Party spokesperson on Democracy and Citizenship, Zack Polanski AM, said: "The Policing Bill has been condemned by a wide range of civil rights organisations, including Amnesty International and Liberty. It clearly contradicts Article 11 of the Human Rights Act, which protects people's right to protest by holding meetings and demonstrations. Even the Conservative MP David Davis has warned of the uses to which this dangerous legislation could be put.

"There is a clear distinction between peaceful protest and violent action – and there are plenty of laws already that can be used against anyone who crosses that line. The Green Party will always defend people's right to peaceful protest, whether we agree with what they are saying or not."

Baroness Jones said: "These draconian laws should be seen as part of the attack on our democracy designed to keep a corrupt government in power and minimise opposition.

"Ironically, it could be the government's attempt to bypass parliamentary scrutiny by MPs that enables the Lords to defeat the 18 pages of new

amendments that have been added to the Bill. If so, there is a good chance that the government will be forced to go back to the drawing board.”

## **Notes**

### **1**

The socially distanced protest starts at 10.15am in front of the statue of leading suffragist Millicent Fawcett where there will be speeches from Green Party representatives

### **2**

Pictures will be available after the event.

Journalists wishing to attend the event or to arrange an interview with a Green Party representative should contact [press@greenparty.org.uk](mailto:press@greenparty.org.uk) or call 0203 691 9401

[Back to main news page](#)

[Adblock test \(Why?\)](#)