

Rt Hon David Cameron MP
Leader of the Opposition
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

15 January 2010

Dear David,

I am sure you will have seen a report in today's Daily Telegraph that your Shadow Health Secretary has recently accepted a £21,000 private donation from the chairman of one of the country's largest private health care providers, Care UK.

From the report, it would appear that this is not a sum of money given to the Conservative Party for the purposes of campaigning in the normal way but a donation specifically to the Shadow Health Secretary's office.

Let me make clear that, at this stage, I have no way of knowing whether this is factually correct. However, I am sure you will agree that it doesn't look good and requires urgent explanation.

If one of the leading members of your team has chosen to accept a donation of this kind and for this purpose, it would raise major questions about the independence of Conservative policy-making.

At a time when public confidence in the political system has been shaken, we all have a responsibility to be as transparent as possible about the access given to stakeholders, particularly those who stand to benefit commercially from policy decisions. This is particularly important in the field of health policy, where there is still uncertainty about your precise plans for the NHS in government.

For these reasons, I call on you today to place in the public domain all relevant information explaining the precise nature of the relationship between Mr Lansley's office and this donor. Specifically, I would be grateful if you answer the following questions:

1. Do you consider it acceptable that any member of your shadow cabinet should accept private donations from companies that have a vested interest in their policy areas?

2. Have you personally vetted this arrangement and, if so, what safeguards have you put in place to guard against any accusations or perceptions of undue influence in the policy-making process?
3. Will you provide a full breakdown of all involvement that Care UK have had in any meetings, discussions or other events related to Conservative health policy?
4. What formal meetings have Mr Nash or Care UK had with Andrew Lansley, George Osborne or you and representatives from your office?
5. Will you take immediate steps to publish any information about other private donations to shadow cabinet offices by companies with clear interests in those portfolios?
6. Will you publish a full and detailed commentary of all communications between Care UK and the Conservative Party?

I hope you will agree that to leave any of these questions unanswered may further damage public trust in the political process. I therefore await a reply at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy Burnham".

Andy Burnham