

# PICTURED: Lord Hanningfield bled publicly funded council expense account dry on overseas partying, boozing and fine dining

**M** [mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/lord-hanningfield-clocking-expenses-scandal-2941284](http://mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/lord-hanningfield-clocking-expenses-scandal-2941284)

12/19/2013



Fraud of the dance: Lord Hanningfield on a jolly in Virginia at taxpayers' expense (Image: Collect)

[Leeching Lord Hanningfield](#) bled his publicly funded expense account dry to travel the world living the high-life.

In just five years he splurged £287,000 on his council corporate credit card - which included partying, boozing and fine dining.

He enjoyed meals at restaurants belonging to Gordon Ramsay, Jamie Oliver and Rick Stein.

And in our exclusive picture Hanningfield is shown on a £10,000 taxpayer funded trip to Jamestown, Virginia, in the US, dancing around a bar to country and western music.

After being confronted by the Mirror about his “clocking in and out” of the Lords for cash [he blasted: “I have worked for 40 years for nothing.”](#)

But today we can completely rubbish that claim after a whistleblower at Essex County Council provided us with five years worth of his expenses whilst he was a council leader and senior Tory Lord.

The brazen baron’s excuse for taking himself and eight other staff on the supposed work trip was to celebrate the 400th anniversary of England’s first American colony.

He even dragged Essex County Council's £210,000-a-year chief executive Joanna Killian on to the dancefloor where they jived to the country and western song Redneck Woman by Gretchen Wilson.

At the time the image was taken he worked as Shadow Transport Minister of the Conservative Party.

It cost taxpayers in Essex an astonishing £9,722.84 for their leader and his colleagues to attend the anniversary celebrations in July 2007.

Last night Hanningfield defending himself, saying: "It was the 400th anniversary of Essex County.

"It was the 400th anniversary of a boat in Essex leaving and arriving in Jamestown. The chairman of the county council and current chief executive were both there."

The council worker contacted us after our revelations that Hanningfield claimed a £300 daily attendance fee for clocking in and out of Parliament.

The whistleblower, wishing to remain anonymous, said: "I've no idea why they thought attending the 400th anniversary of England's colony over there was so important. In my opinion it has nothing whatsoever to do with running Essex council.

"There is a lot of anger about his claims whilst he was council leader. Many thought his claims excessive."

Essex County Council have previously said that Hanningfield owes them £50,000 out of the £287,000 he spent on the credit card.

The council said he was "refusing to co-operate" with their request that he pay back the huge sum of money.

Last night the Mirror contacted Essex Council for a comment.

The information provided to the press office was then leaked to Hanningfield who contacted our reporter directly.

Asked if the council still sought the £50,000 refund, Hanningfield said: "No, I've had this discussion. They haven't even followed the technical legal side.

"You can't just say someone owes you £50,000 without records or proof."

Then, asked if it is still ongoing, he responded: "Not really, no."

The Mirror can reveal Hanningfield paid out huge sums of money wining and dining fellow Lords at some of London's top restaurants - including £467.66 to entertain three other members of the House of Lords to a slap up meal at Gordon Ramsay's Michelin-starred restaurant at The Connaught, a five-star hotel in Mayfair, central London.

Lord Hanningfield was the leader of Essex County Council between 2001 and 2010, as well as a shadow minister for the Conservatives in the House of Lords.

The peer, real name Paul White, spent more than quarter of a million pounds of taxpayers' money on his corporate credit card during the last five years of his leadership.

Between 2005 and 2010 he racked up a £287,000 bill on his corporate charge card, using the card 1,106 times in this period.

Essex County Council released details of Lord Hanningfield's spending in November 2012 after the City of London police dropped their investigation into the 73-year-old's council expenses.

[The probe](#) into his council expenses was launched after he was released from jail in 2011 for fiddling his parliamentary expenses.

Lord Hanningfield used his card lavishly and regularly stayed in expensive hotels abroad as well as dining out in posh restaurants at home - all paid for by the Essex rate payer.

In the five year period, he clocked up a £136,000 overseas travel bill, including stays at five-star hotels - visiting 24 countries.

In five years, between 2005 and 2010, Lord Hanningfield visited 24 countries and spent £136,000.

These were: USA, Poland, Croatia, Sri Lanka, Cyprus, Austria, Slovakia, France, Italy, China, Germany, Holland, India, Australia, New Zealand, Sweden, Uganda, Hungary, Bahamas, Canada, Hong Kong, Finland, Vietnam and Albania.

He spent £7,700 on himself and a colleague to attend a three-day conference in the Bahamas in May 2009, including visits to some of the Caribbean island's finest restaurants.

He also spent £2,428 to attend the 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Turin with two colleagues.

Other examples of his excess include spending £1,538 at the Imperial in New Delhi, described as the best luxury hotel in India in 2007, and £2,326.29 to stay at the five star Taj Mahal Hotel in, Mumbai, for Lord Hanningfield and a colleague in 2008.

While in five years, between 2005 and 2010, Lord Hanningfield spent £78,660 on 'hospitality', using his council taxpayer-funded credit card 500 times.

His card was used for meals at restaurants more than 400 times. Around 65 per cent of meals took place solely between the peer and colleagues.

In July 2006, the Essex taxpayer paid £467.66 for the peer to take three members of the House of Lords to Gordon Ramsay's Michelin-starred restaurant at The Connaught, a five-star hotel in Mayfair, central London.

The same day, £71.75 was spent on drinks in Selfridges with two colleagues and a further £35 at a London wine bar.

Essex taxpayers paid £423.94 for the peer to enjoy a "working dinner" in 2006 for four council employees at Racine, a French restaurant in Knightsbridge, where a steak costs £28.50.

The corporate credit card was also used to pick up a £713.63 tab for a "leaving lunch" at Le Talbooth in Dedham, a luxury country house hotel in Essex, also in 2006.

Other examples include dinner with colleagues at Jamie Oliver's Fifteen restaurant, Newquay, during County Council Network Conference, which cost £540.25, in 2006.

Dinner with colleagues at Rick Stein's The Seafood Restaurant, Padstow, during County Council Network Conference, costing £518.25 in 2006.

Dinner at Sam's of Sevendials restaurant, Brighton, during Liberal Democrat Party Conference, cost an whopping £906.60 in 2007.

And dinner at the House of Lords in 2008 costing £526.57.

Essex residents also paid £444.84 to settle a monthly bar bill at the House of Lords in 2007 and £439.15 for a coffee machine for his council office in 2008.

Lord Hanningfield also put £751.25 "entertaining" at The Goring in 2008, the hotel in Belgravia where Kate Middleton stayed before her wedding to Prince William.

The peer also had a fondness for a restaurant called Barda, in Chelmsford, Essex, a seven minute walk from his

office at the council.

He visited the restaurant 33 times between 2005-2010 at a cost to the taxpayer of £4,071.

He said last night: "I hardly used the card at all. It was all done by my PA. Flights and hotels were booked on it."

Essex County Council spokesperson said: "The complete list of credit card transactions and expenses has been published by the Council and this includes legitimate business expenses such as rail travel and conferences.

"The Council's lawyers are dealing with the possible claim for recovery of any monies due to the Council from Lord Hanningfield arising from any expenditure on corporate credit cards, expense claims or other forms of payment which do not relate to ECC business.

"Council officers have written to Lord Hanningfield several times in attempt to resolve the issue informally and the matter is now in the hands of our lawyers."

[This week both David Cameron and Lord Hill, leader of the House of Lords, said they were "dismayed"](#) by our revelations that Hanningfield spent just minutes inside Parliament to claim cash.

[Our undercover team of journalists followed him across the month of July](#) in which he claimed £5700 tax-free for attending the House of Lords.

But we found that for 11 of the 19 days he spent less than 40 minutes at Parliament - and on one occasion stayed just 21 minutes.





# LORD HANNINGFIELD

Lord Hanningfield, born 16 September 1940, is a Tory politician and a suspended member of the House of Lords. Elected as a councillor in 1970, he went on to lead Essex County Council between 2001 and 2010. He was born Paul Edward Winston White, but became Baron Hanningfield on being made a life peer in 1998 and is known as Lord Hanningfield.



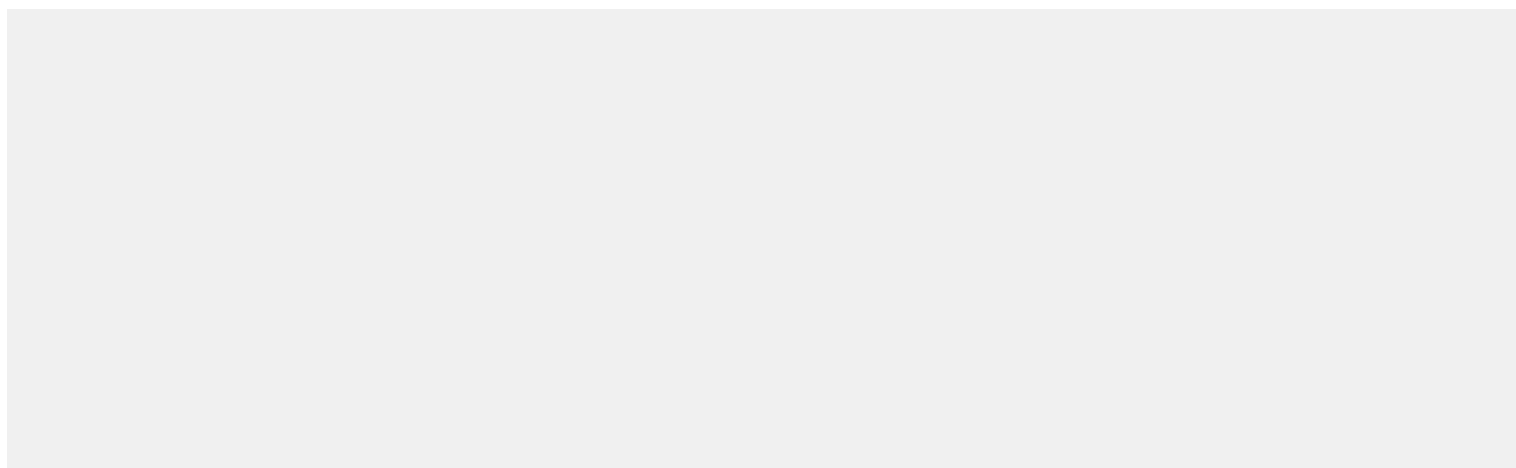
HOUSE OF LORDS

## Calls for Lords reform as peers get £40,000 a year for just a few hours work



HOUSE OF LORDS

## Labour MP launches stunning attack on House of Lords where 'pantomime' peers 'dress like playing cards'

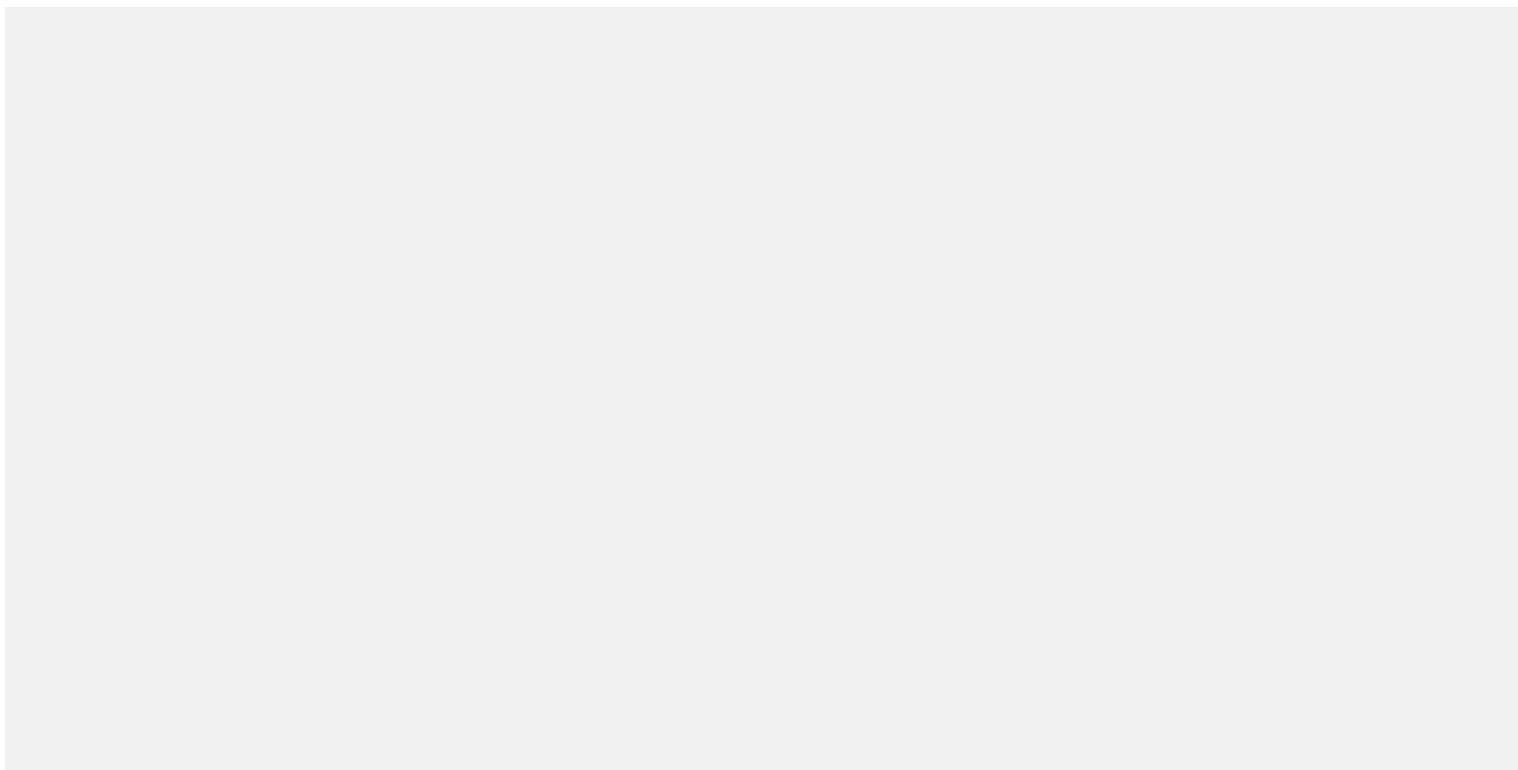






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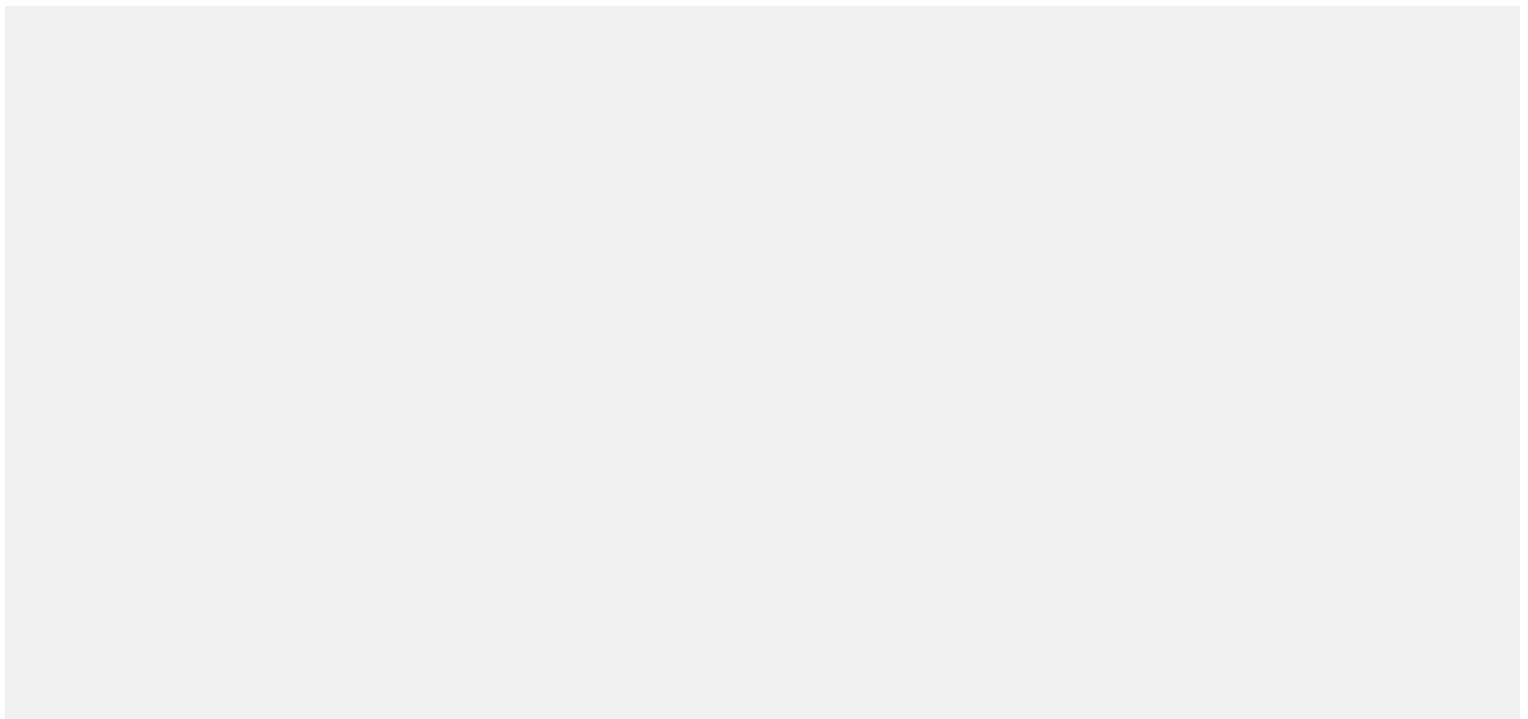
**House of Lords probe into daily expenses scandal dropped to protect reputation of peers**





LORD HANNINGFIELD

## Shameless ex-Tory peer Lord Hanningfield demands an apology from Crown Prosecution Service

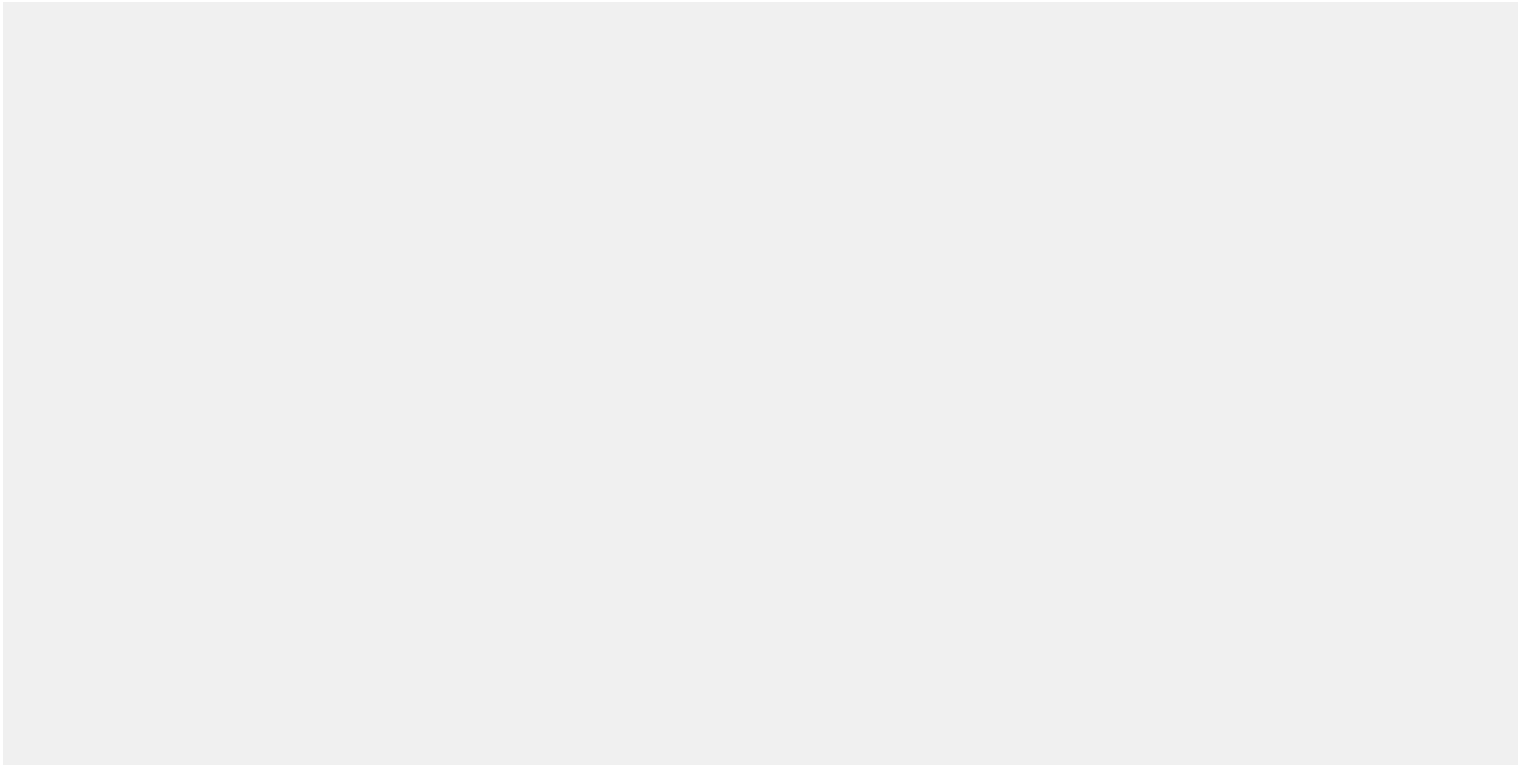






LORD HANNINGFIELD

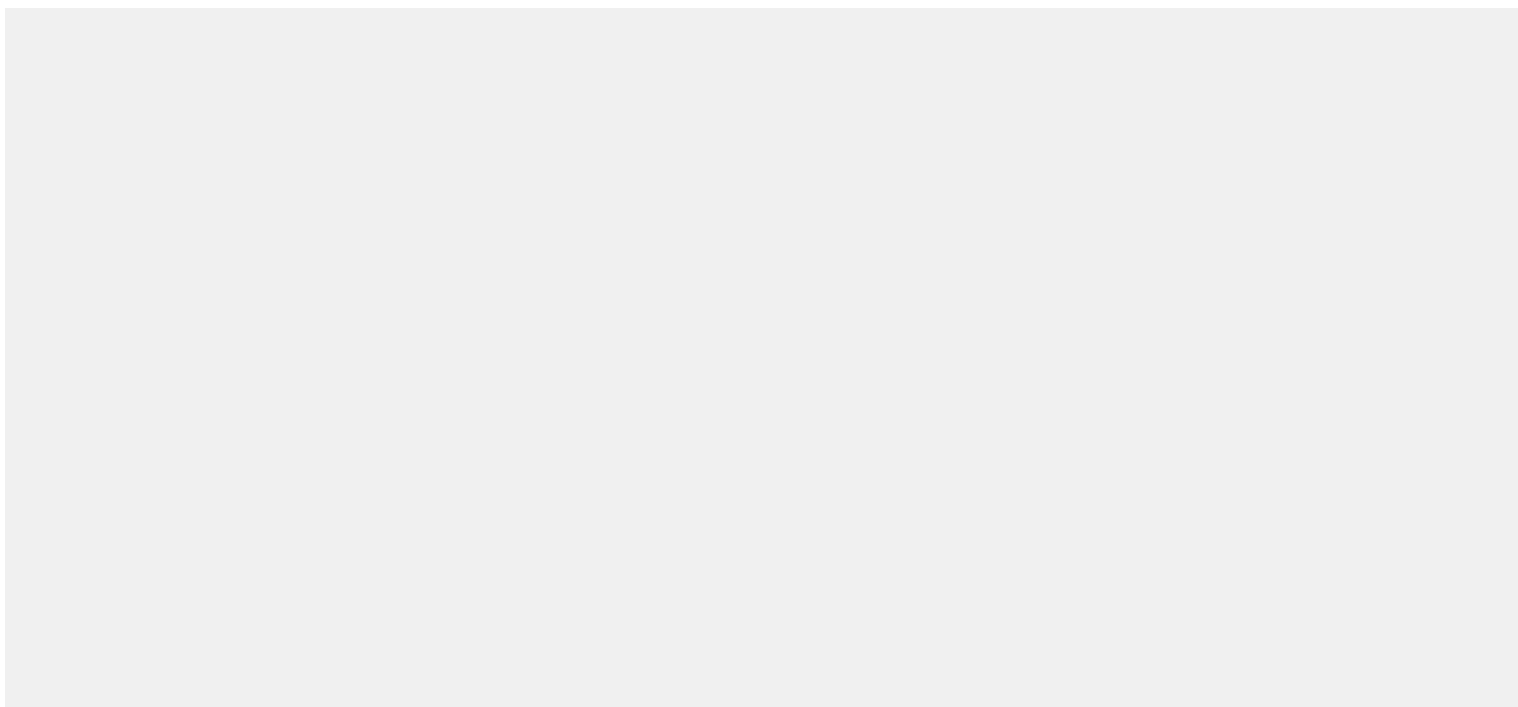
## Lord Hanningfield's trial collapse prompts fresh calls for House of Lords reform





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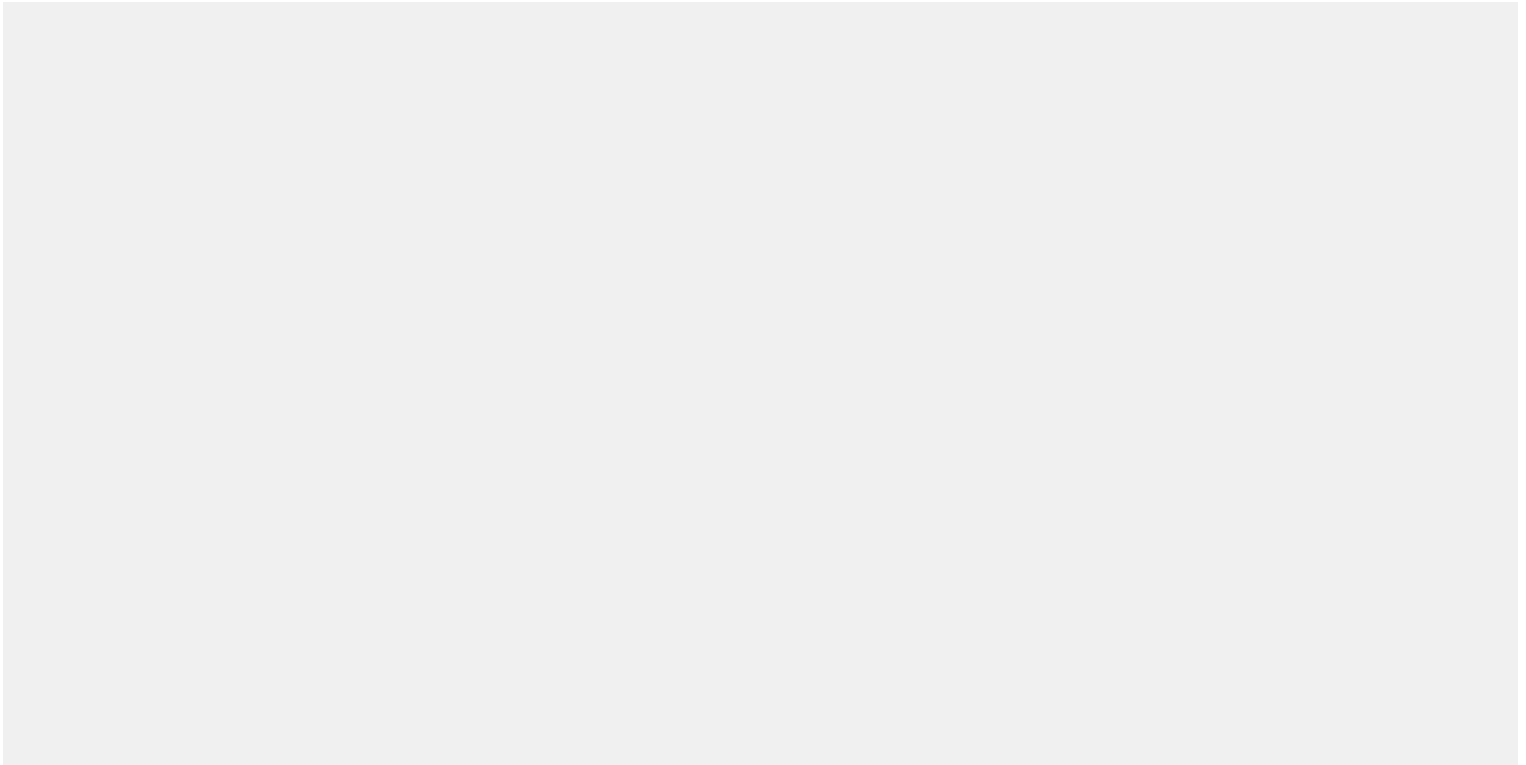
**Lord Hanningfield scandal shows House of Lords is only interested in self-preservation**





LORD HANNINGFIELD

## How Lord Hanningfield's expenses fiddling was exposed by The Mirror

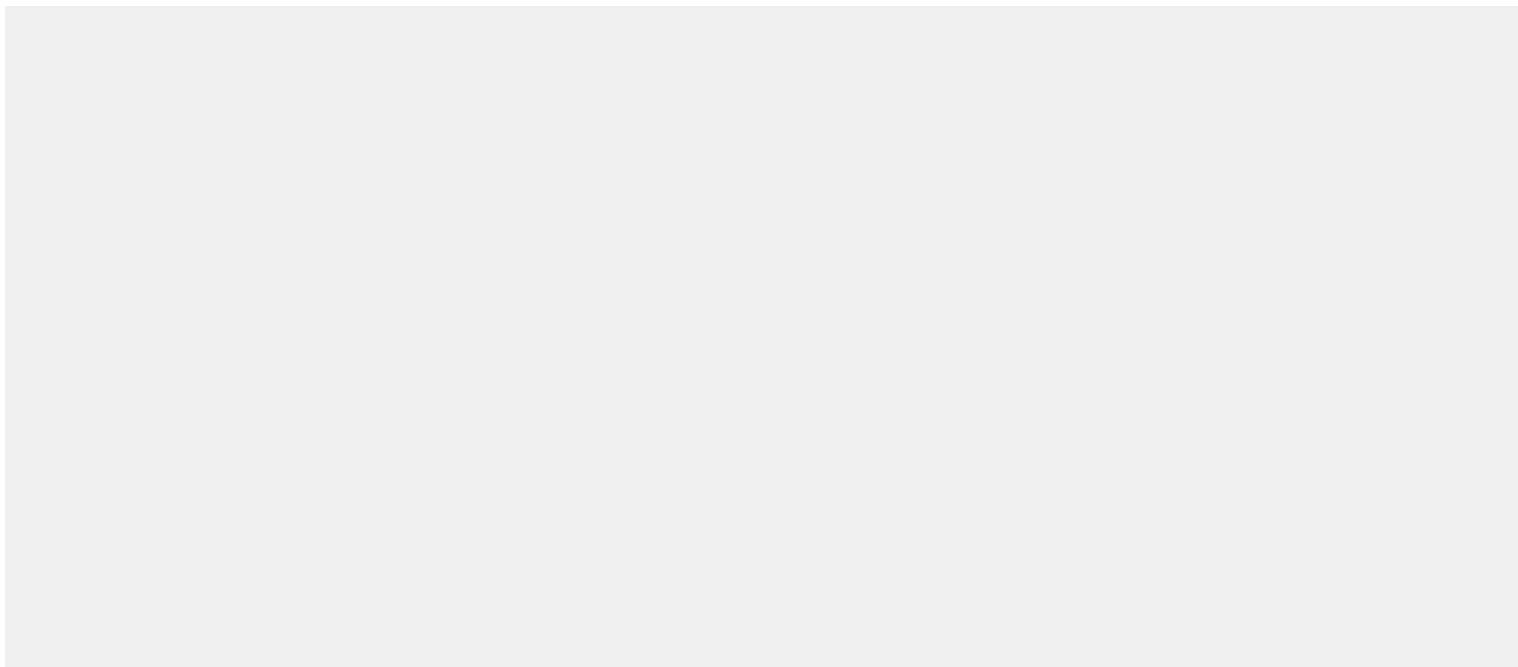






LORD HANNINGFIELD

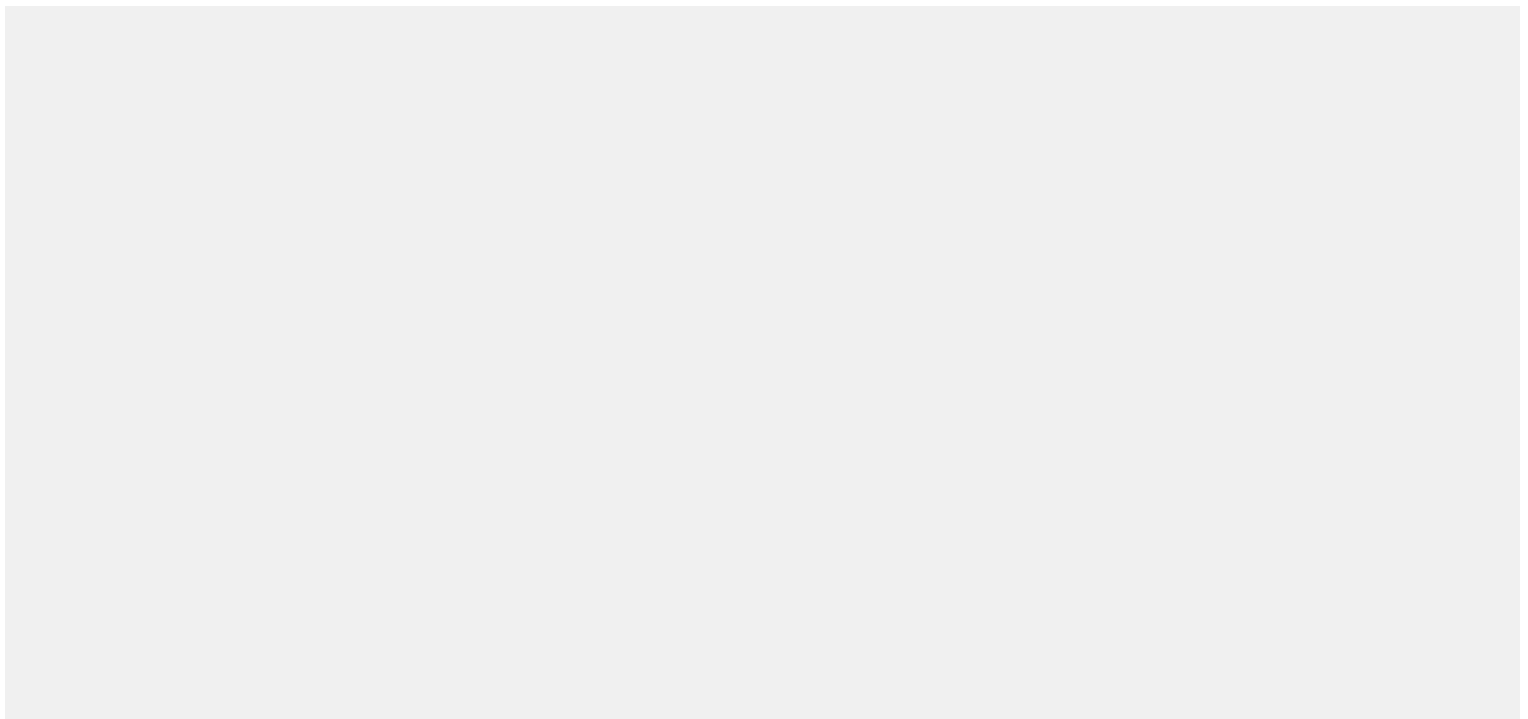
## Lord Hanningfield's court case sends out the wrong message and the public deserve an explanation





LORD HANNINGFIELD

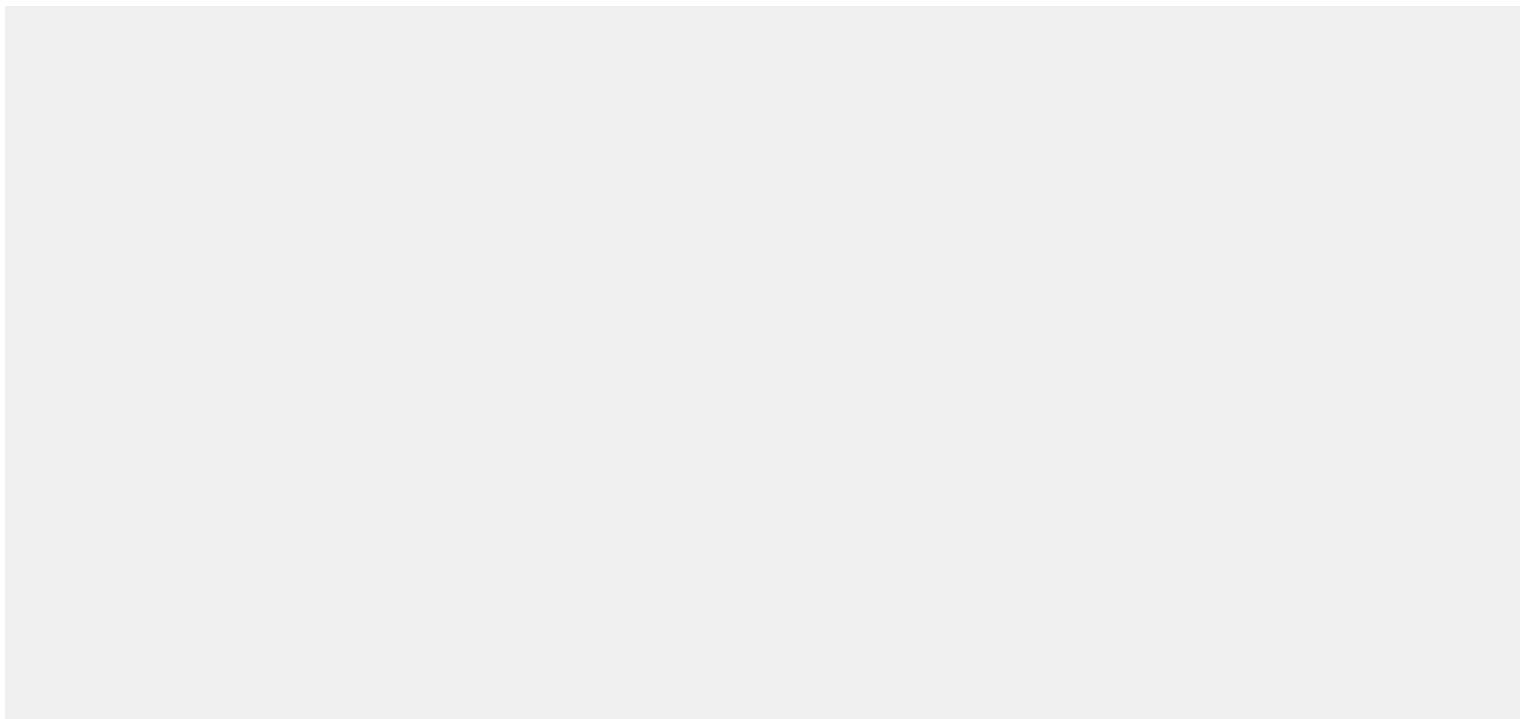
**Lord fraud above the law as ex-Tory peer Lord Hanningfield acquitted of fiddling £3,300 expenses**





LORD HANNINGFIELD

**Ex-Tory peer Lord Hanningfield acquitted of fiddling expenses after last-minute email from Parliament**

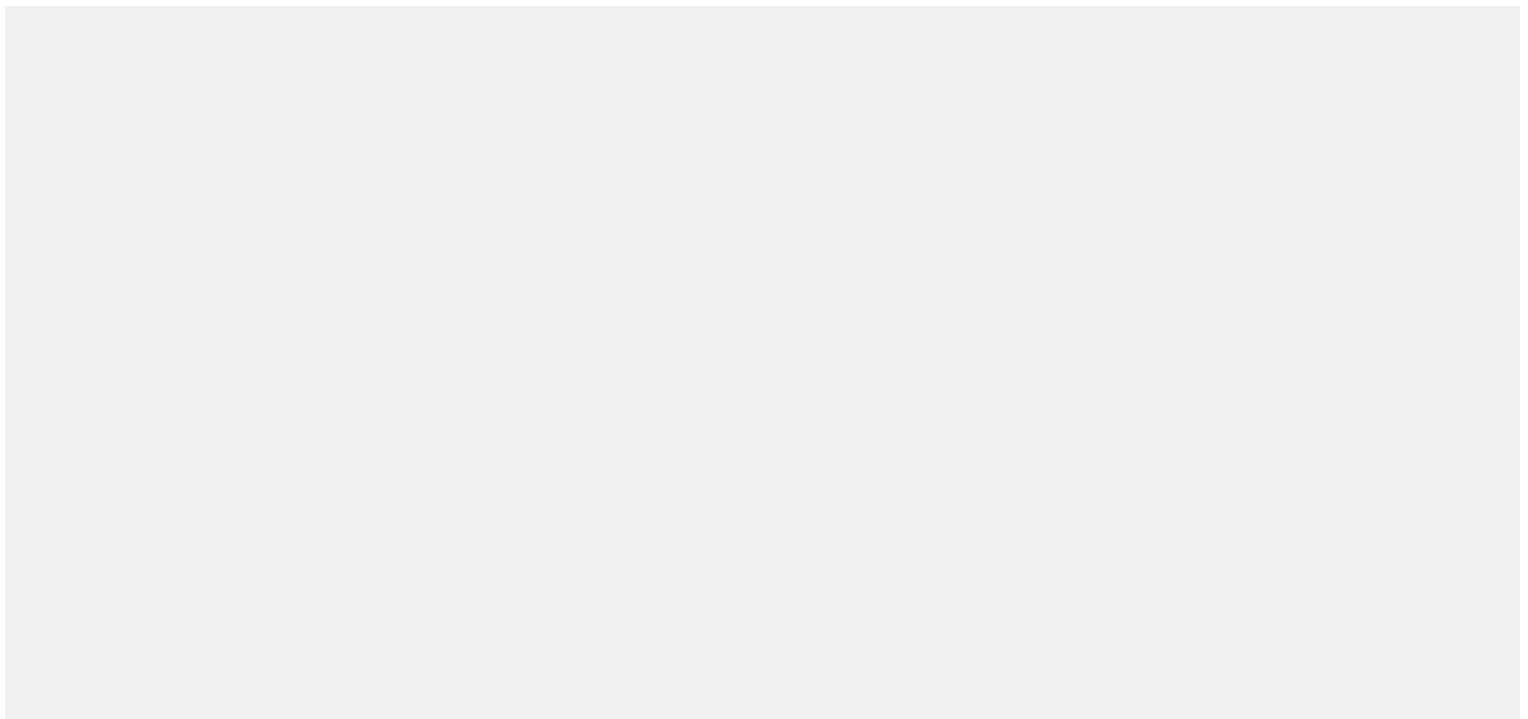






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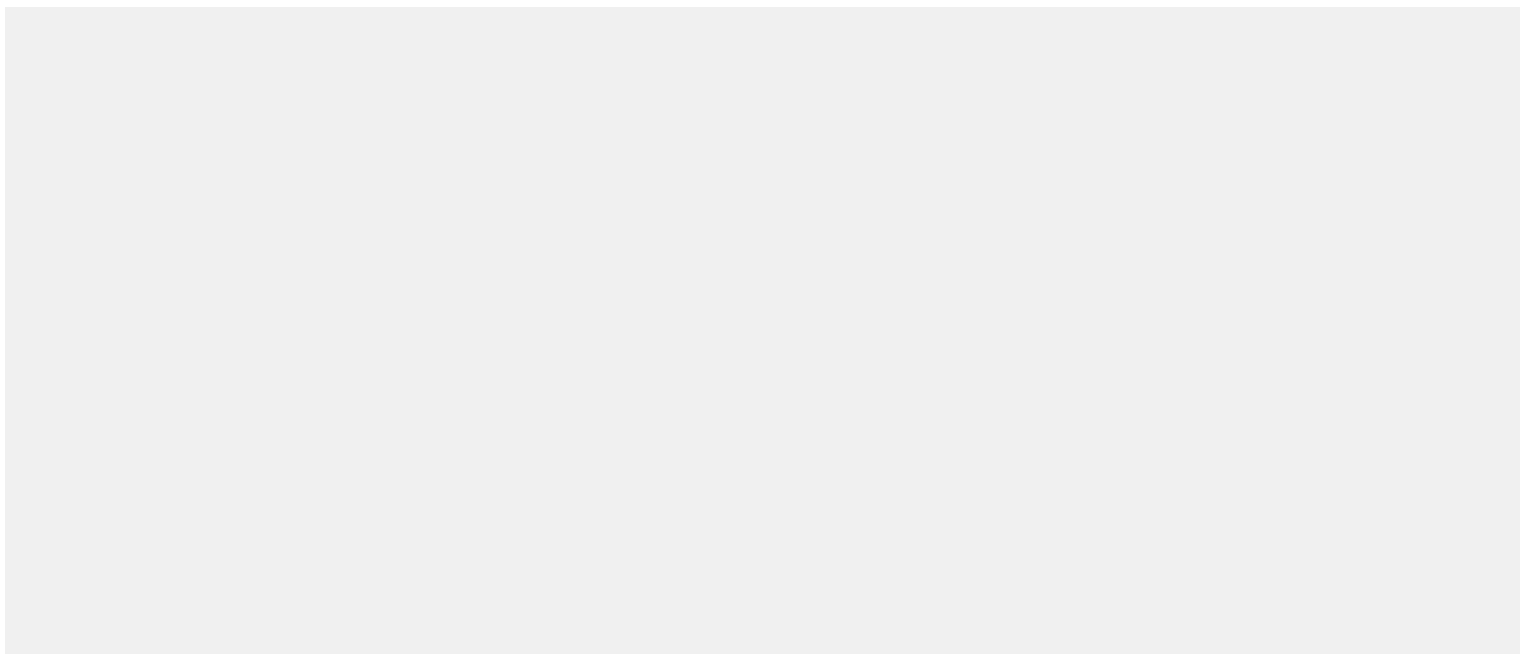
## Ex-Tory peer Lord Hanningfield to stand trial accused of fiddling his House of Lords expenses





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## House of Lords sees over 150 members missing at least 75 per cent of sitting days

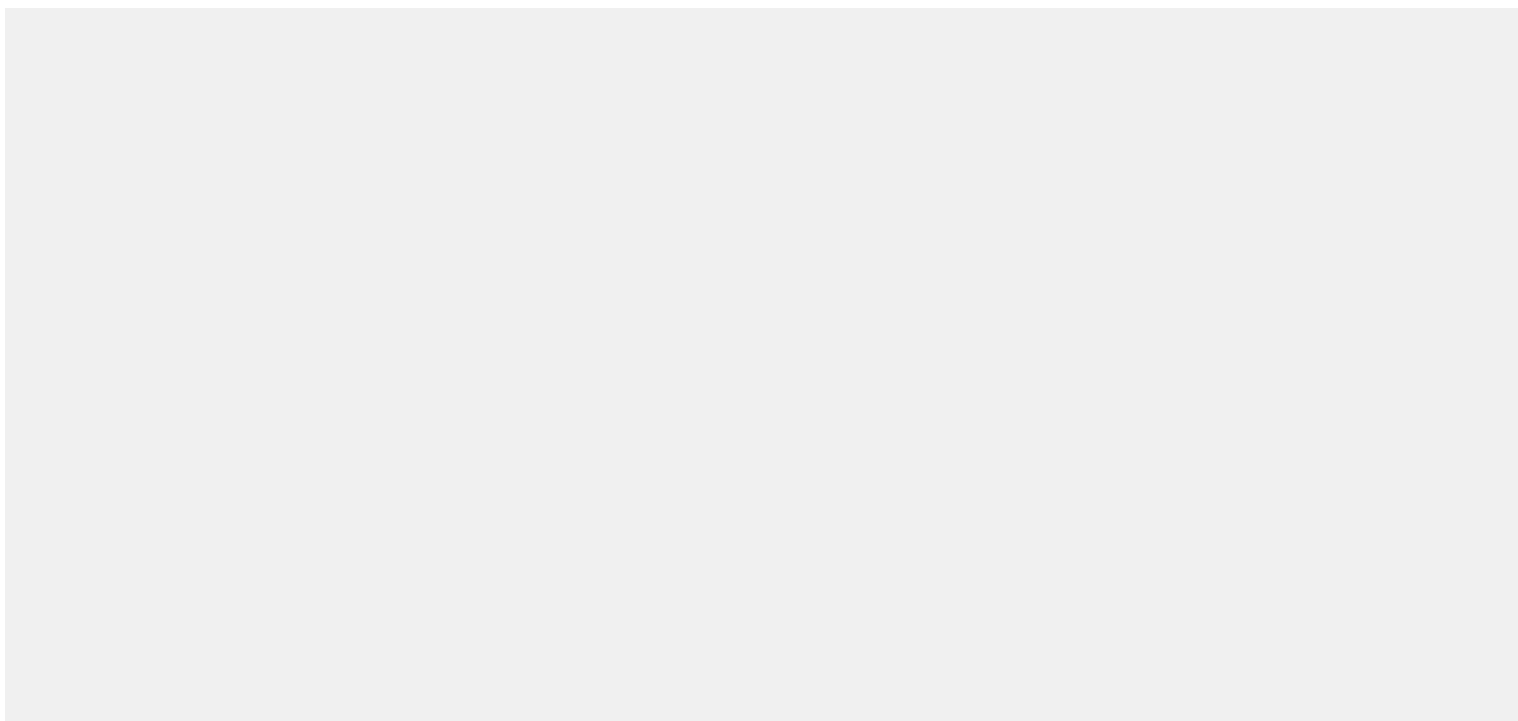






#### EXPENSES

**Former Tory peer Lord Hanningfield appears in crown court over claims he fiddled parliamentary expenses**

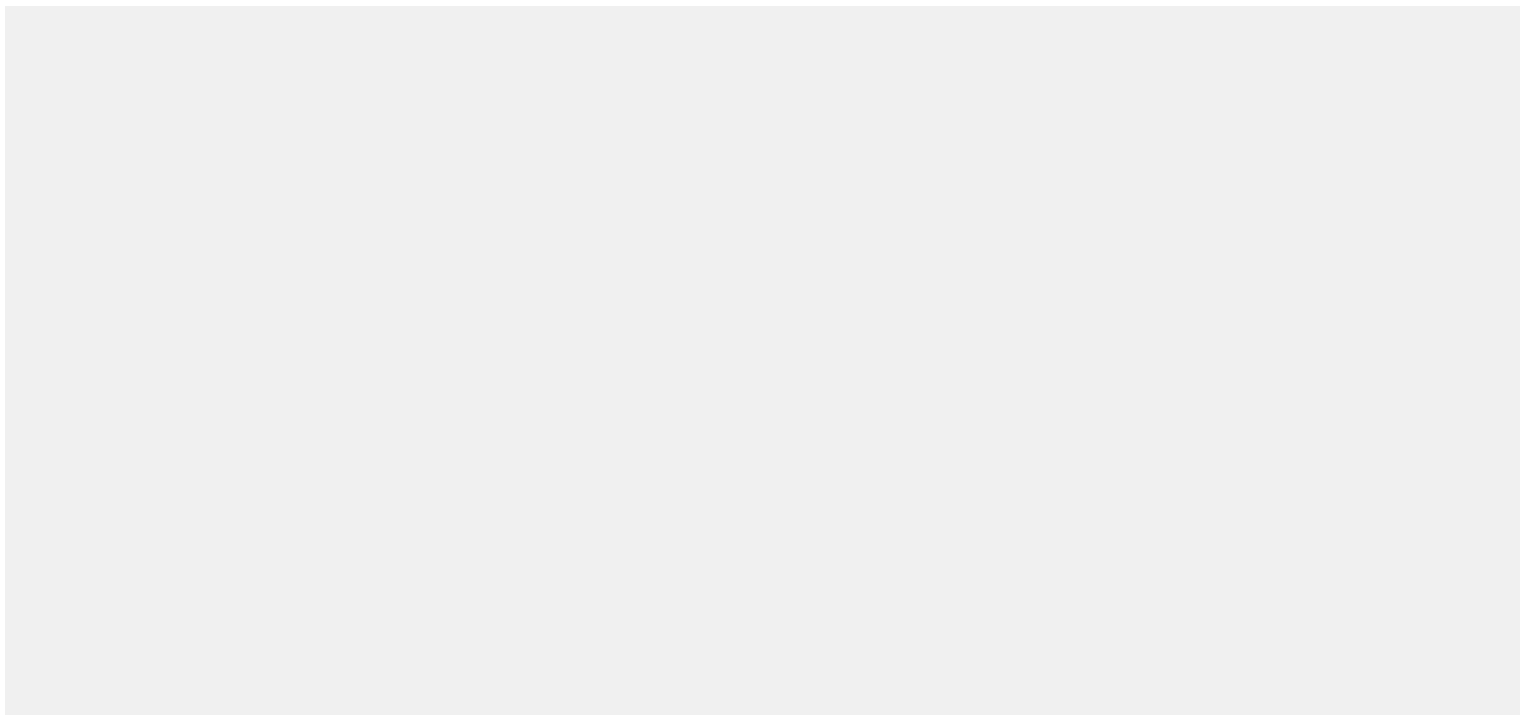






EXPENSES

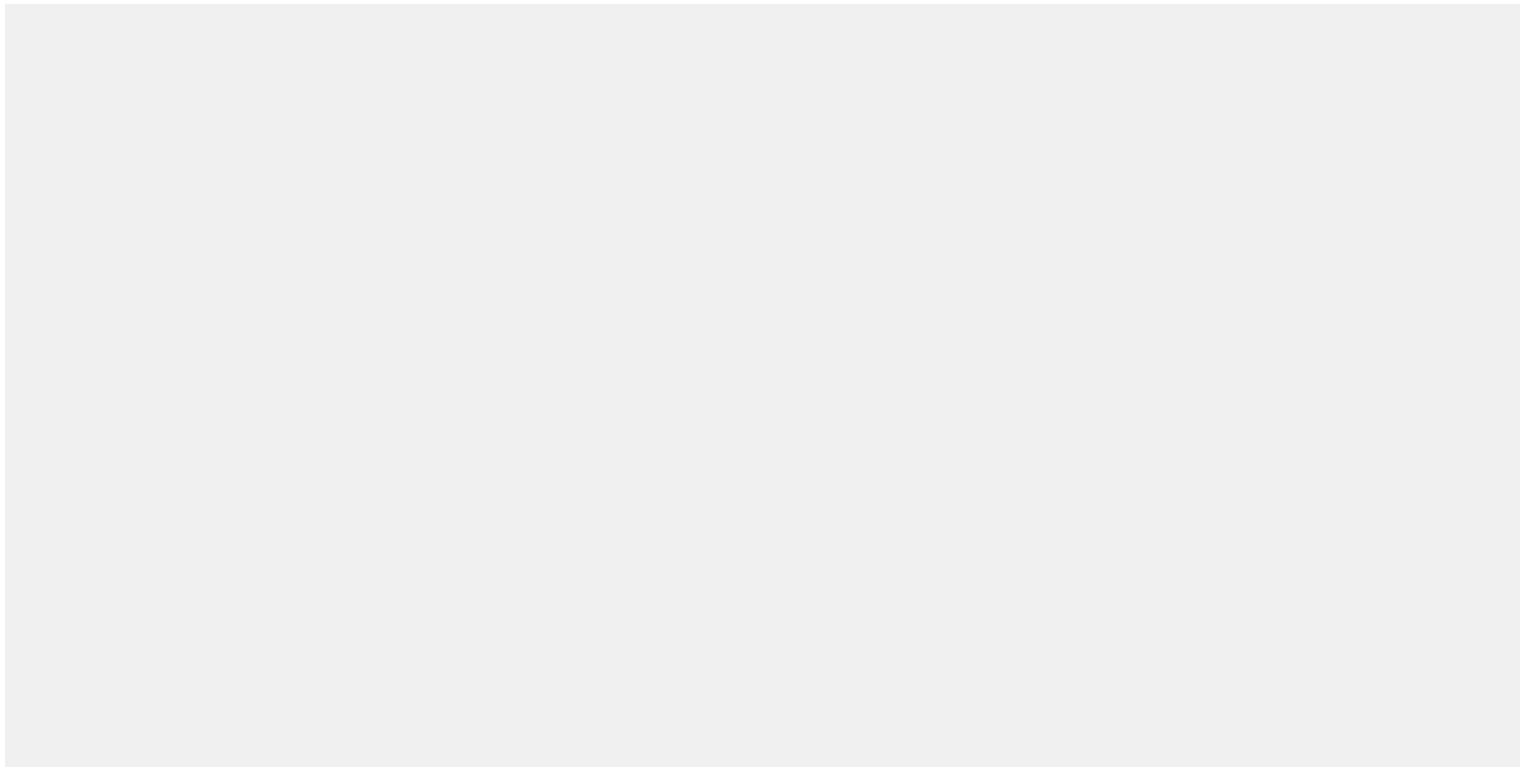
## Former Tory peer in court to deny expenses cheat claims





LORD HANNINGFIELD

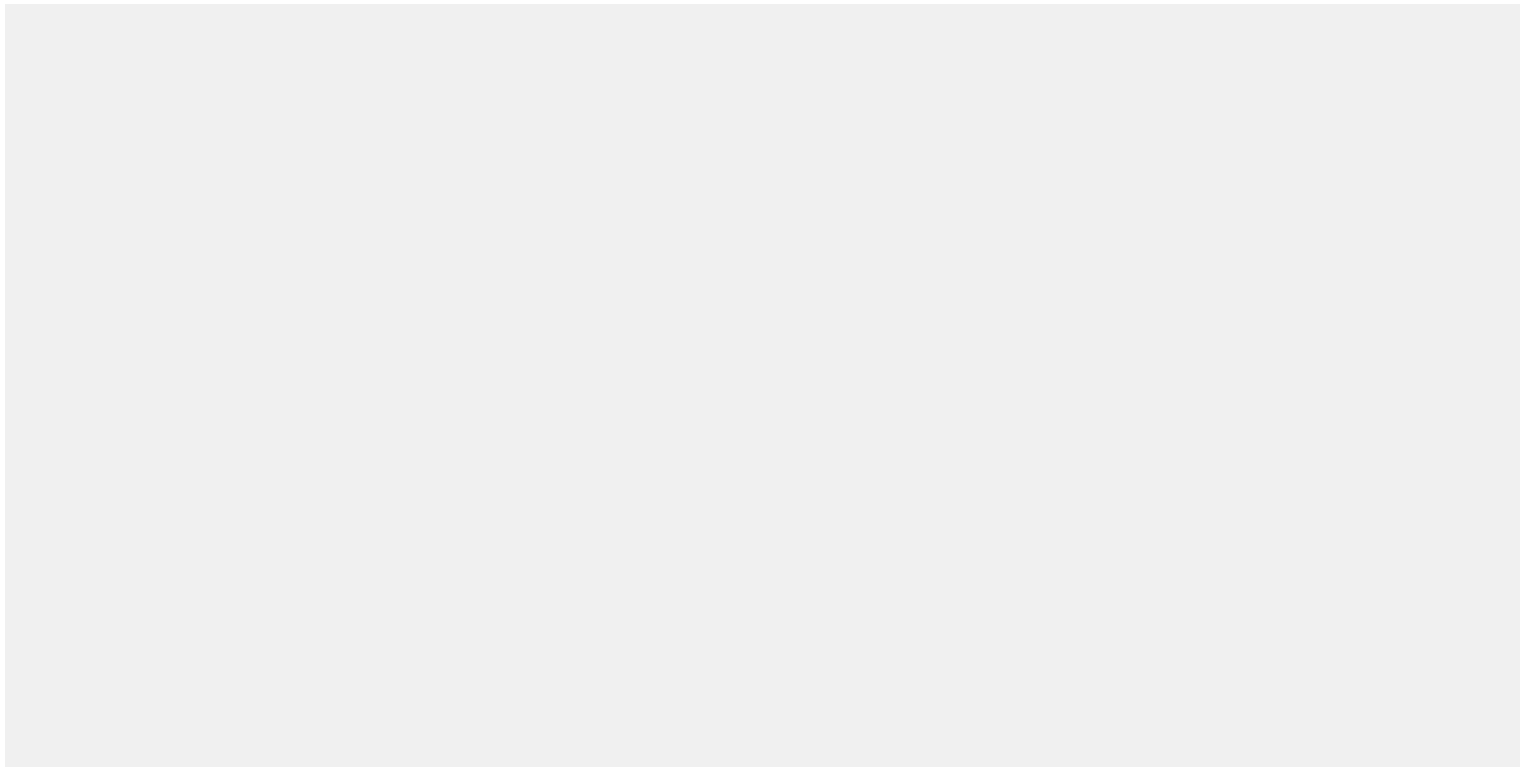
Lord charged with fraud says he was “surprised” by decision to prosecute





LORD HANNINGFIELD

## Ex-Tory Lord Hanningfield charged with expenses fraud after Daily Mirror investigation







HOUSE OF LORDS

**Twenty nine peers claimed almost £750,000 in expenses without speaking a word in House of Lords**





HOUSE OF LORDS

Ten thousand readers back our campaign calling for unelected House of Lords to be scrapped

□





LORD HANNINGFIELD

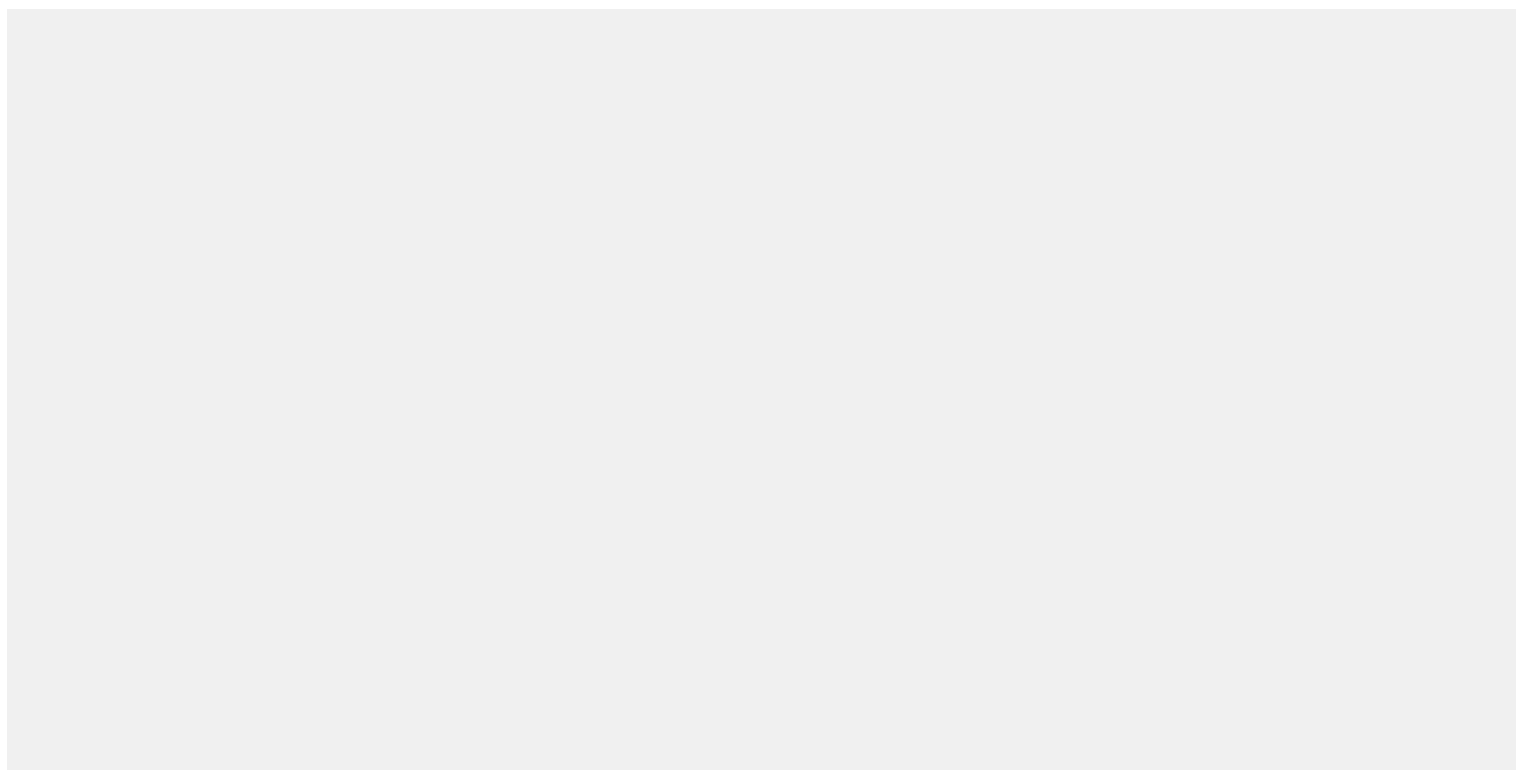
**Return of leeching Lord Hanningfield - ready to resume claiming £300-a-day Westminster expenses**





HOUSE OF LORDS

## Cheating peers could be kicked out of the House of Lords under tough new laws





LORD HANNINGFIELD

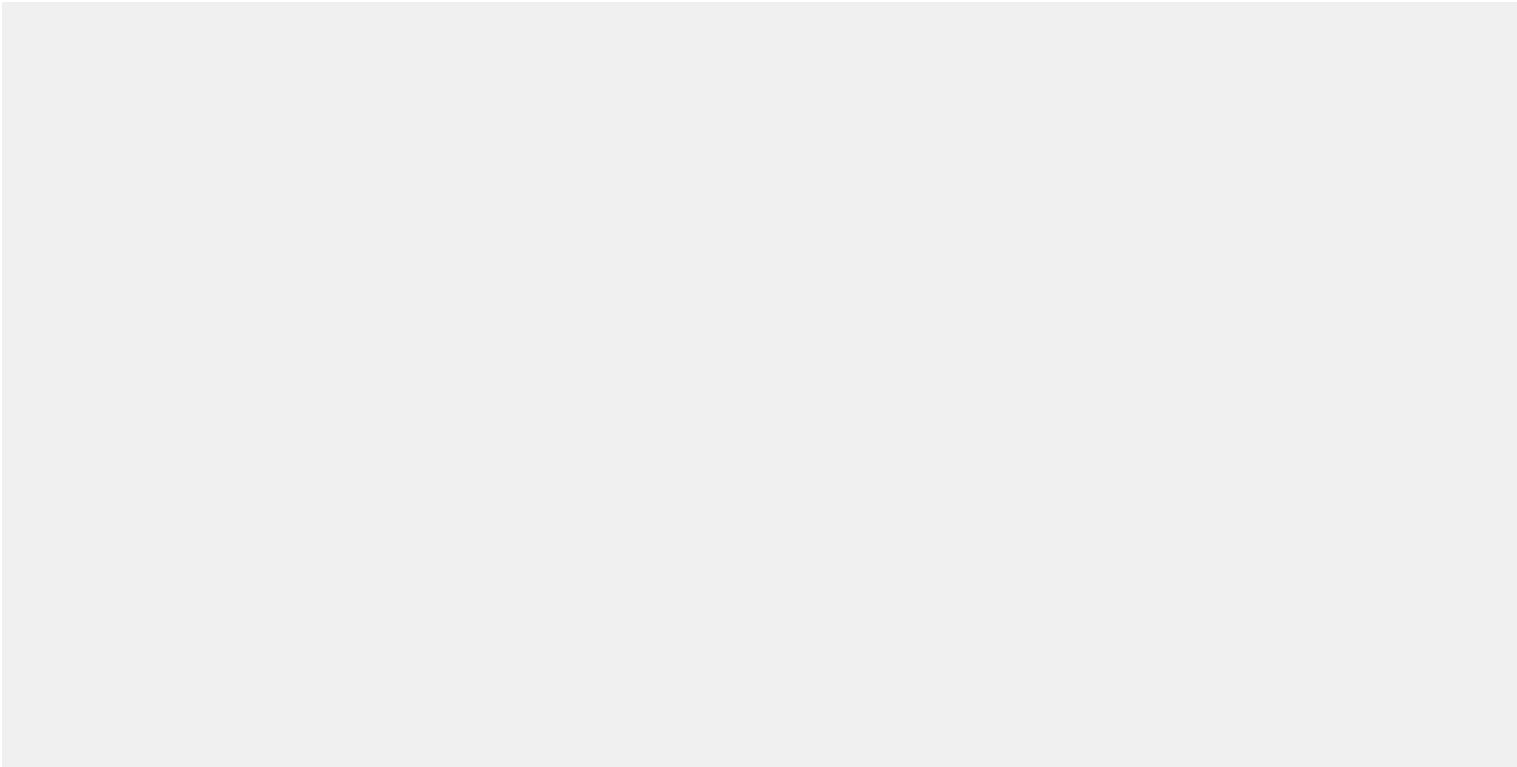
Fraud Lord Hanningfield will get to keep his home through bank deal





LORD HANNINGFIELD

House of Lords fraud probe: Lord Hanningfield says 'I'm fed up and I want a rest'

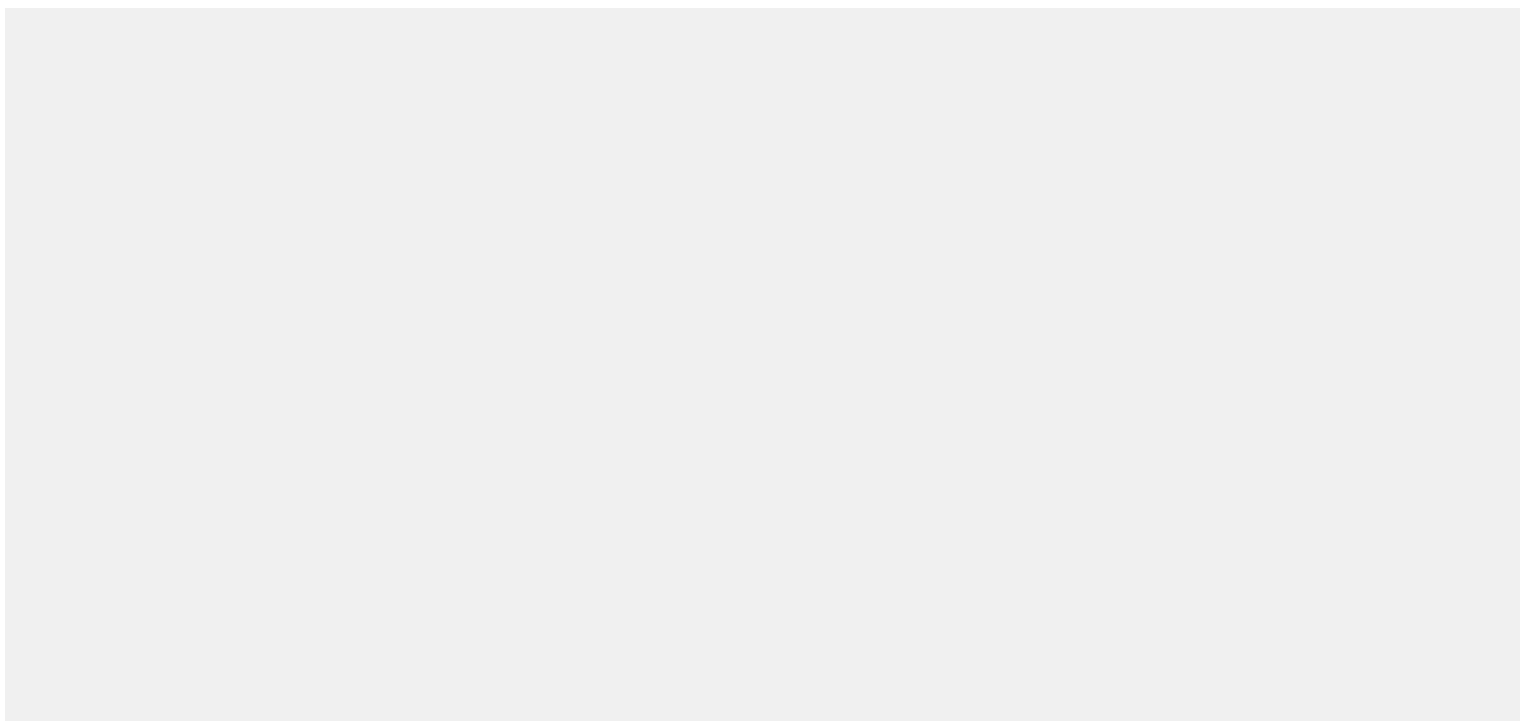






LORD HANNINGFIELD

**'Clocking in scandal' peer Lord Hanningfield to be hit with £3k fine and kicked out of Parliament**





LORD HANNINGFIELD

# Lord Hanningfield claims he had to fiddle expenses to look after his CHICKENS

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NEWS

# Video: Ex-Tory Lord Hanningfield dismisses 'clocking in' scandal as a 'storm in a teacup'

The disgraced peer continues to defend his £300 a-day claims for 'clocking in and clocking out' of Parliament

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BY DAVID COLLINS, STEVE ROBSON  
12:48, 17 DEC 2013 | UPDATED 14:09, 17 DEC 2013



Unrepentant: Lord Hanningfield speaks outside his Essex home (Image: Phil Harris / Daily Mirror)



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Ex-Tory Lord Hanningfield today dismissed the ['clocking in' expenses scandal](#) exposed by the Mirror as a "storm in a teacup".

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The disgraced politician continues to deny he has done anything wrong by claiming a £300 attendance allowance for spending less than half an hour in Parliament.

Our investigation revealed how the 73-year-old peer is ripping off taxpayers to the tune of thousands of pounds by simply turning up and clocking in to the Lords.

As the furore surrounding his shameless scam intensified today, Lord Hanningfield spoke to

TV reporters outside his home in Essex where he stayed unrepentant.

"This is a lot of rubbish. It's a storm in a teacup," he said.

"It's a lot of rubbish about nothing the Mirror have done.

"The Mirror's got it totally wrong - that's not the way the Lords operates today. You have to go in to get the allowances, but you don't do your work in the chamber."



[On one occasion we photographed him arriving at the Lords and leaving again just 21 minutes later](#) – earning him more than £14 a minute

When confronted by our reporter [outside Ingatestone train station yesterday](#), Lord Hanningfield defended himself and saying: "I could name 50 other peers that do it."

When asked today if he would like to name the others, he said " No I'm not going to give you names. I could say the whole 600. All 600 (Lords) sometimes just go in to clock in.

"A lot of the MPs don't go in at all. At least we have to go in. So why don't you follow some MPs around and see how often they go in the chamber."



He insisted the £300 a day tax-free allowance money is used by Lords for “entertaining and meeting people”, as well as paying staff.

After hearing our undercover team followed his movements throughout July, he gave a series of bizarre excuses, such as it being a “hot month”, that he “has to eat” and “hasn’t been well”.

At one point he even blasted: “Clocking in and out of Parliament is only part of being a peer.”

He told the Mirror to examine his career in public service, saying he had “worked for 40 years for nothing”.

He even said he “shouldn’t have been jailed” in July 2011, despite a jury finding him guilty on six counts of false accounting following the last Parliamentary expenses scandal.



The Electoral Reform Society (ERS) says the case highlights the need to end the "absurd anachronism" that convicted criminals were able to keep their peerages.

Lord Hanningfield spent nine months behind bars for fiddling his accounts in the last Westminster expenses scandal.



The former Tory front-bencher, had the party whip withdrawn when he was jailed.

A backbench Bill allowing for expulsions from the House of Lords is being debated by the Commons and is expected to receive Government backing.

But the ERS said that was just "tinkering at the edges" in the wake of the scuppering by Tory MPs of Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg's attempt to introduce an elected second chamber.

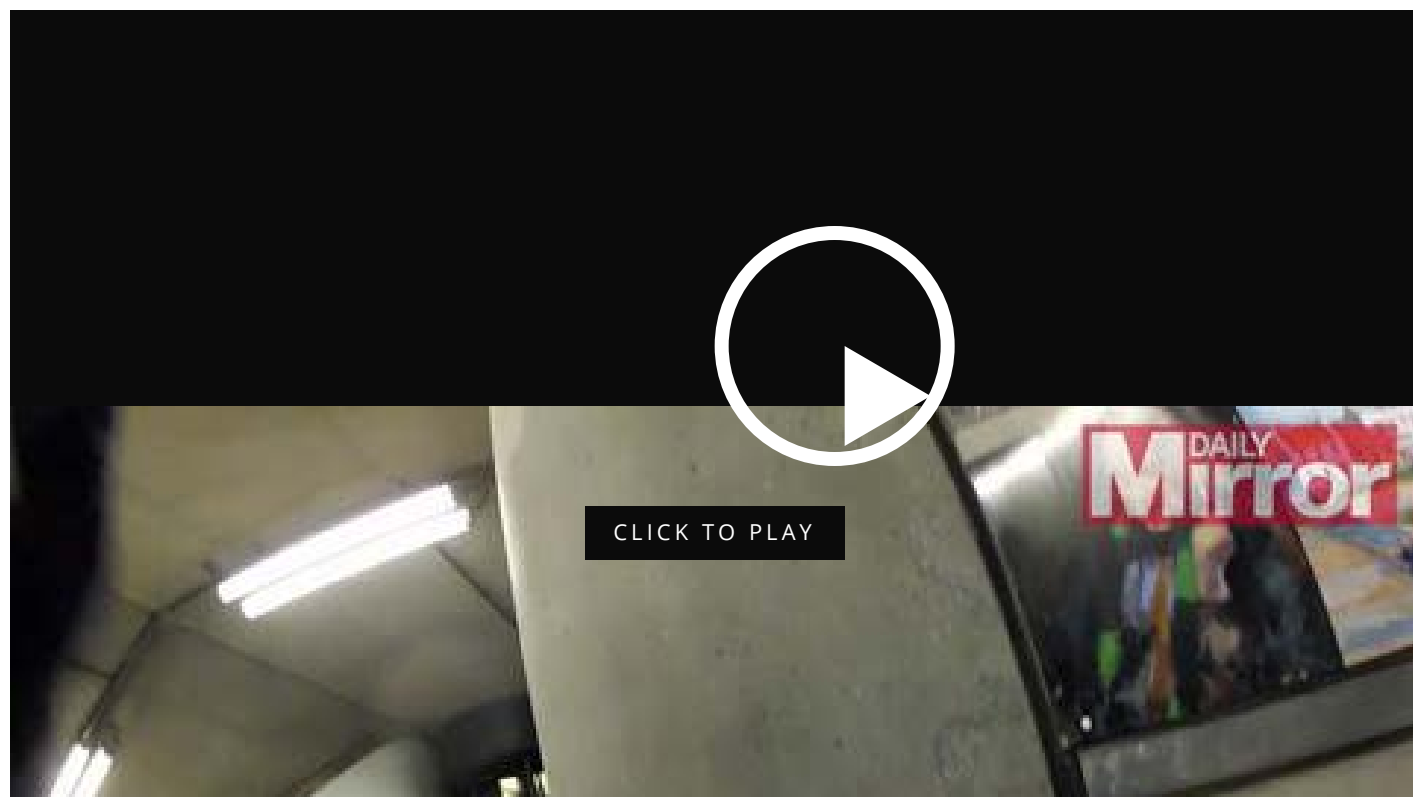
Chief executive Katie Ghose said: "There are currently Lords reform proposals doing the rounds which at least end the absurd anachronism that convicted criminals are allowed to keep their peerages.

"But most members of the public are shocked when they find out that criminals can still be lords, and dealing with this one aspect of the out-of-date second chamber is just tinkering at the edges.

"We need a complete overhaul of the House of Lords. We need to drag it kicking and screaming into the 21st century.

"It's no wonder people feel alienated from politics when they see peers clocking on for £300 a day and clocking off shortly after. After all, who'd be able to get away with that in normal life?"

David Cameron's official spokesman said he had not spoken to the Prime Minister about the peer's claims but told reporters: "I understand the concerns that have been raised."



The House of Lords Commissioner for Standards - who is responsible for investigating alleged breaches of the peers' code of conduct including on the use of expenses - has not yet received any complaint about Lord Hanningfield, a spokesman said.

Labour MP John Mann, who campaigned to clean up the Commons, called for Hanningfield to be booted out of the Lords.

He added: "There needs to be a full investigation into how he has been allowed to get away with it.

"We need to give the House of Lords a proper, transparent spring cleaning."

Mr Mann's office said the MP was expected to formally request an investigation later today.

► Lord Hanningfield 'clocking in' expenses scandal exposed





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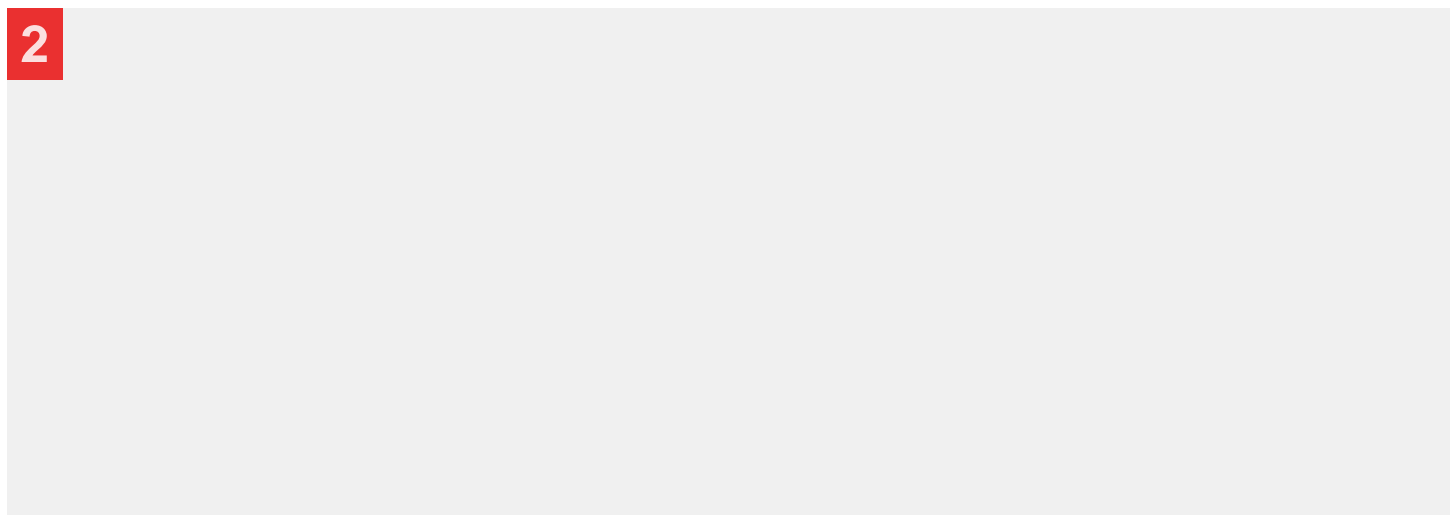


1

CHARLIE GARD

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Barrister Katie Gollop QC broke the news on Friday during the latest stage of the couple's legal fight over treatment for the terminally-ill baby

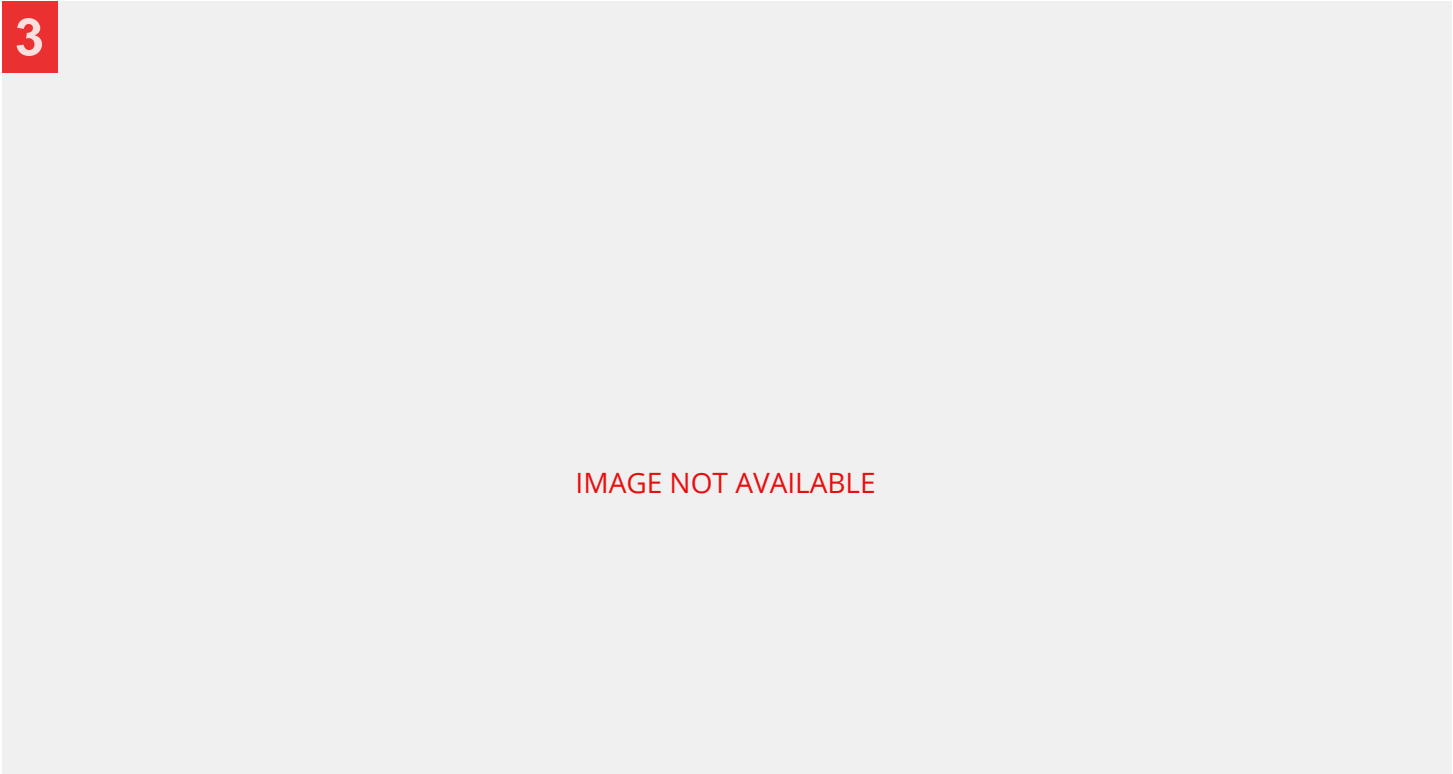


2



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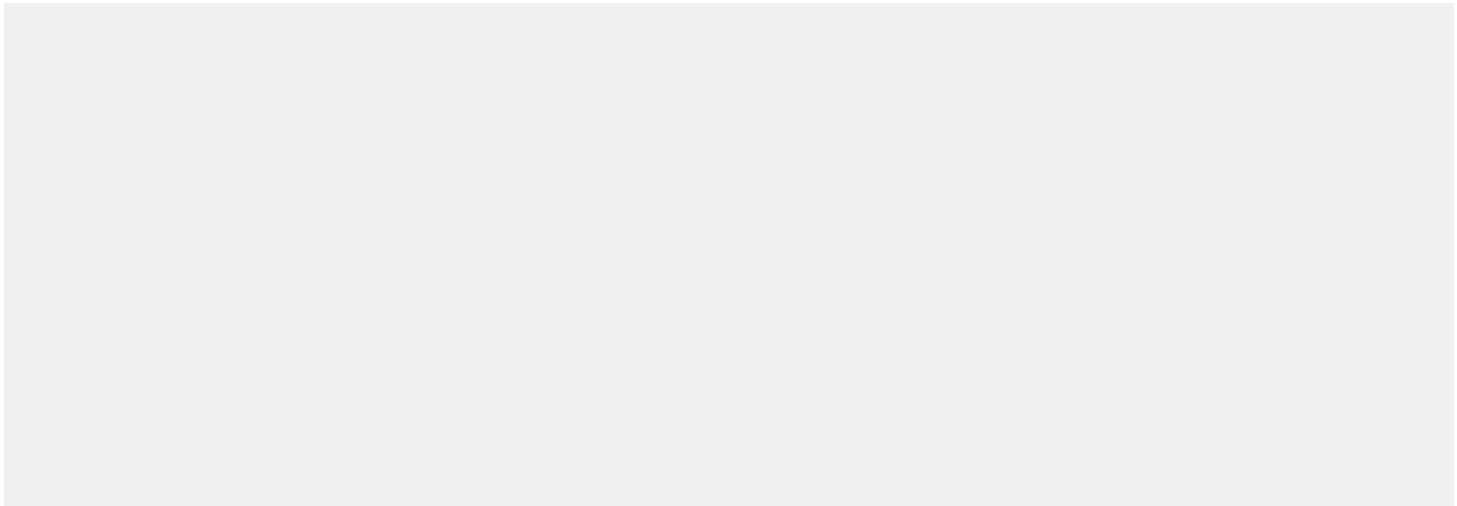
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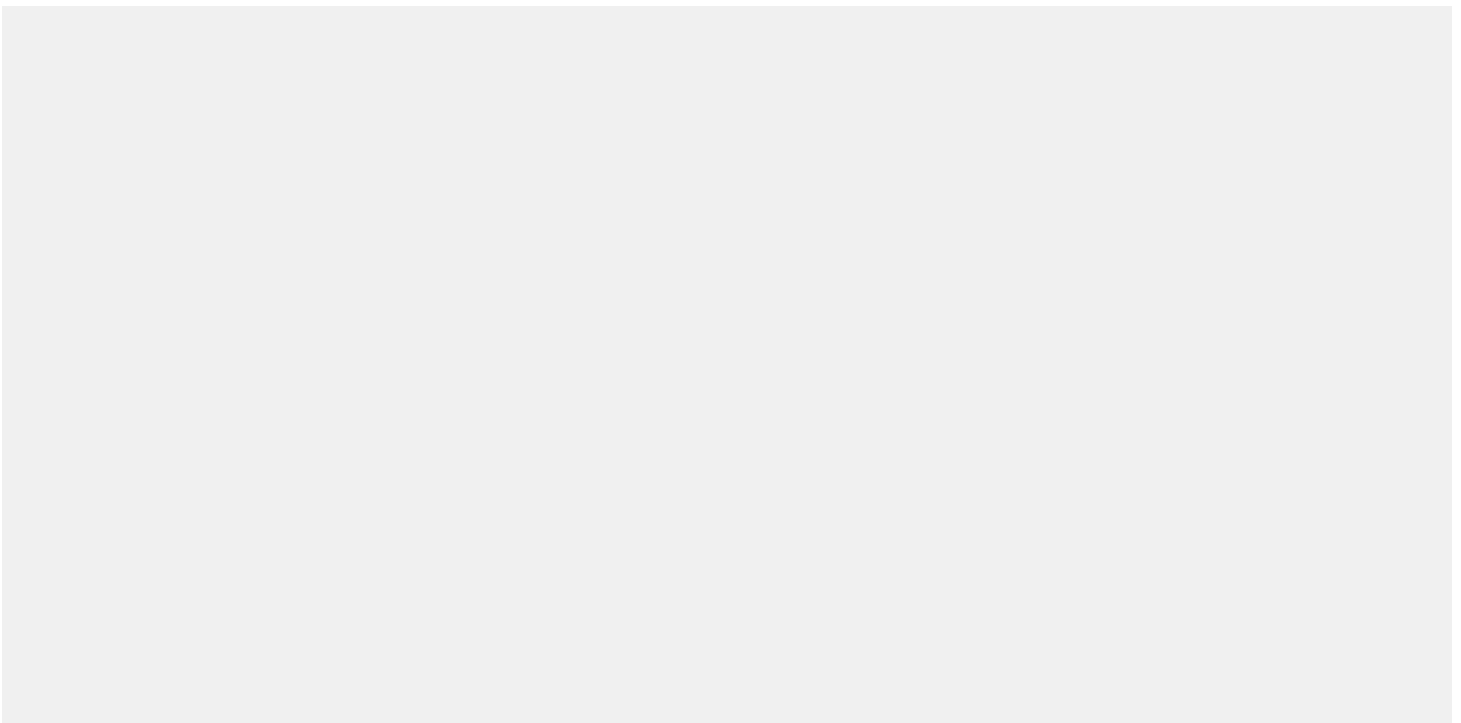
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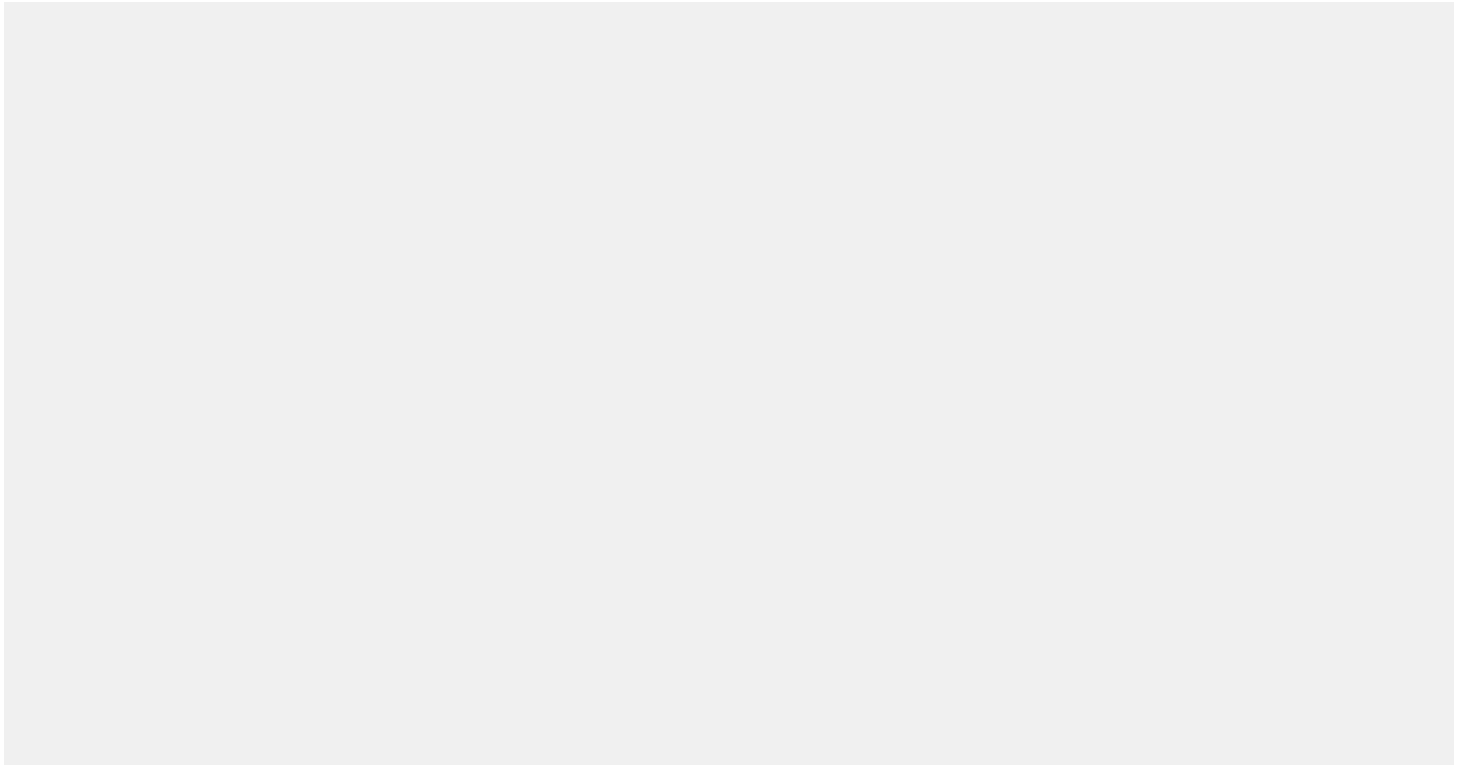
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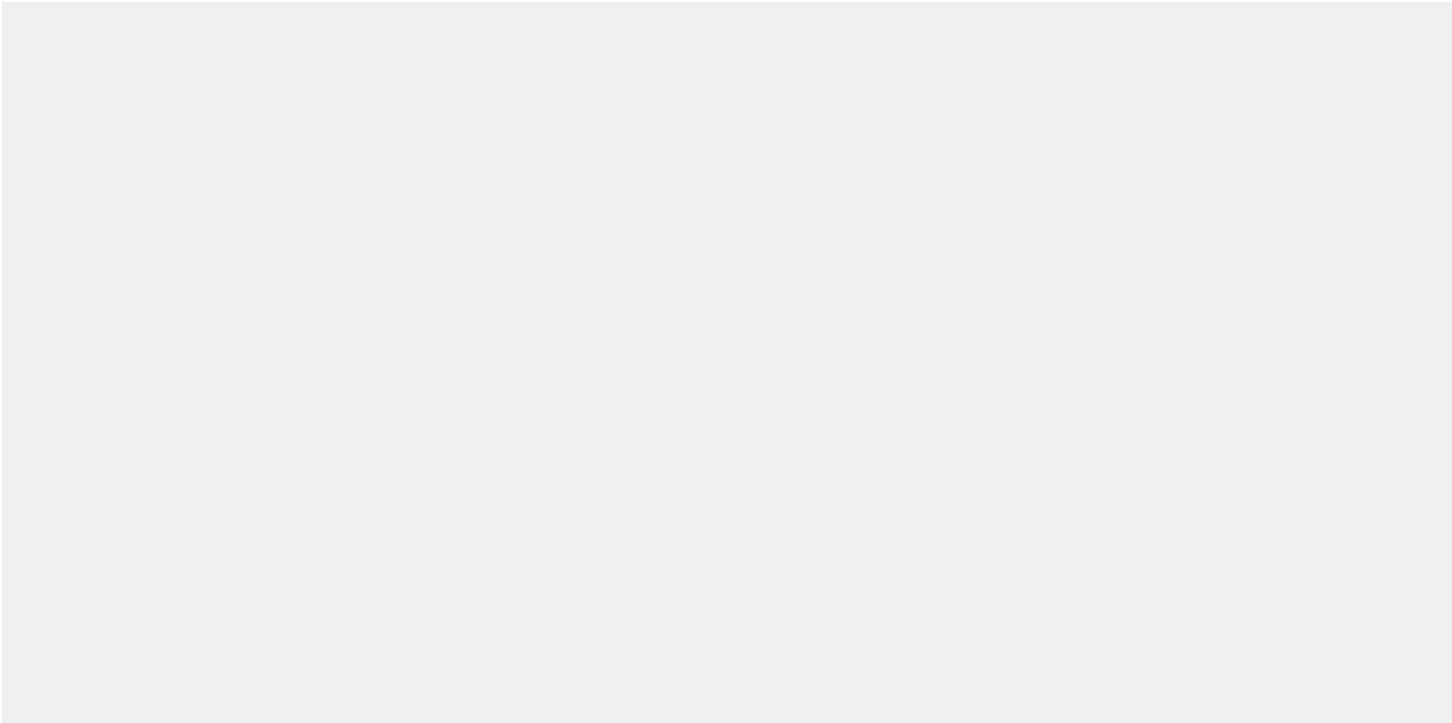
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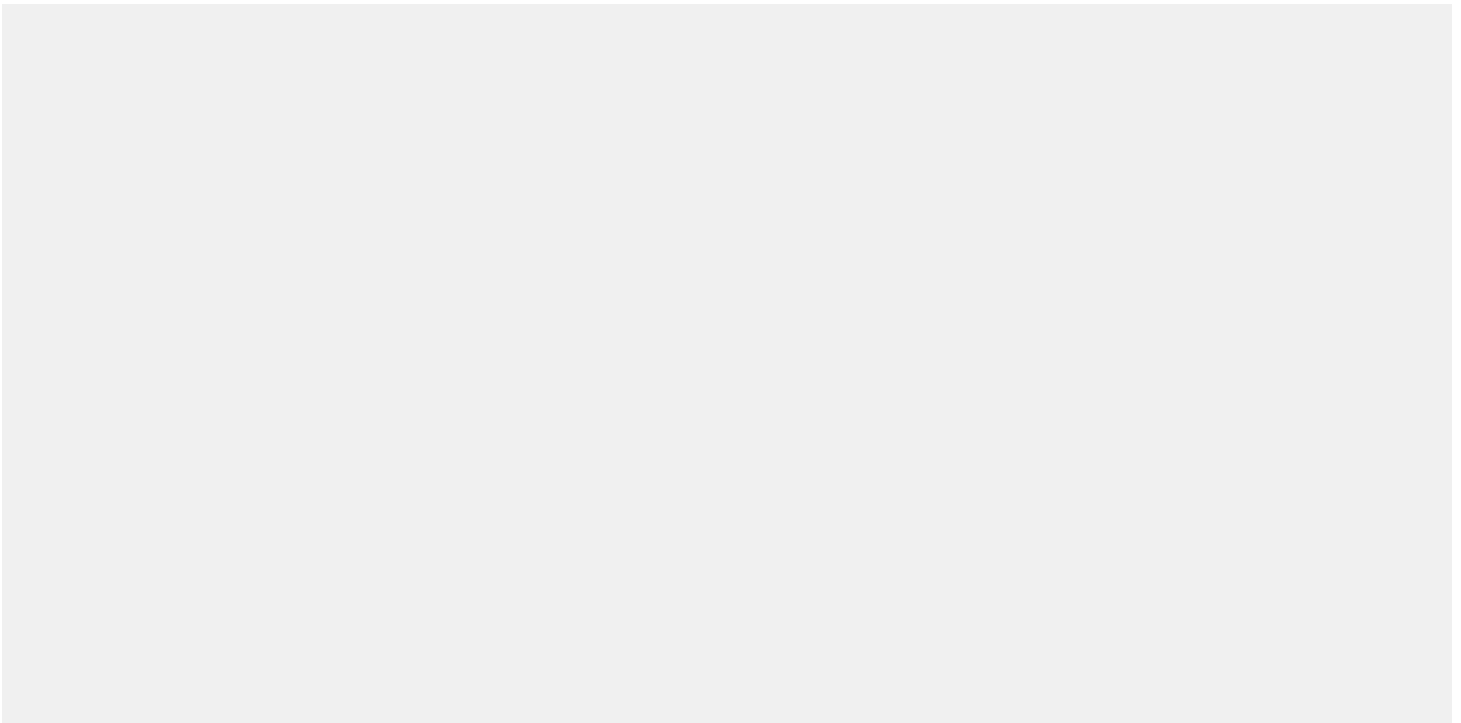






#### CHILD ABUSE

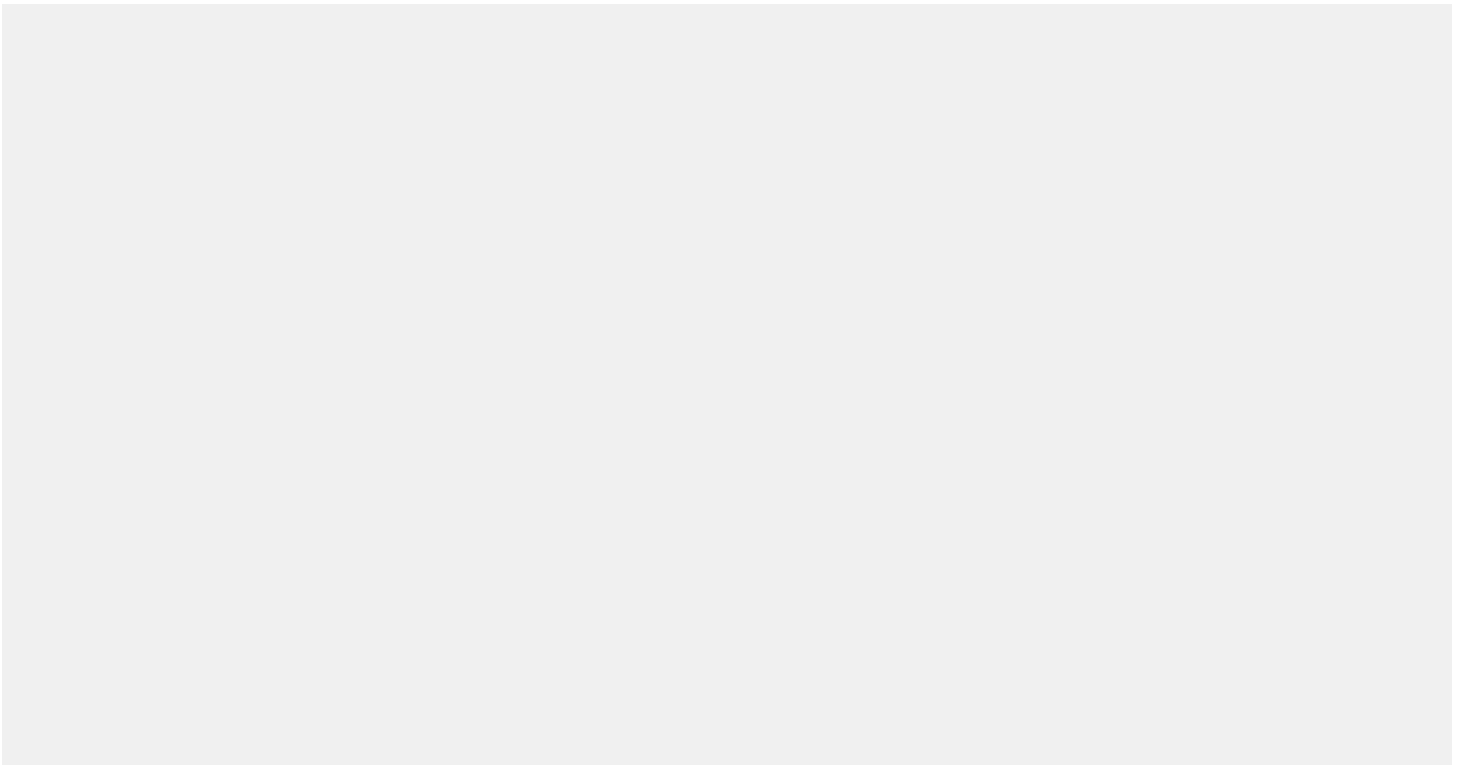
**Sadistic OAP forced children to drink juice mixed with bleach and shower in scalding hot water in reign of horrific abuse**





#### SCHOOLS

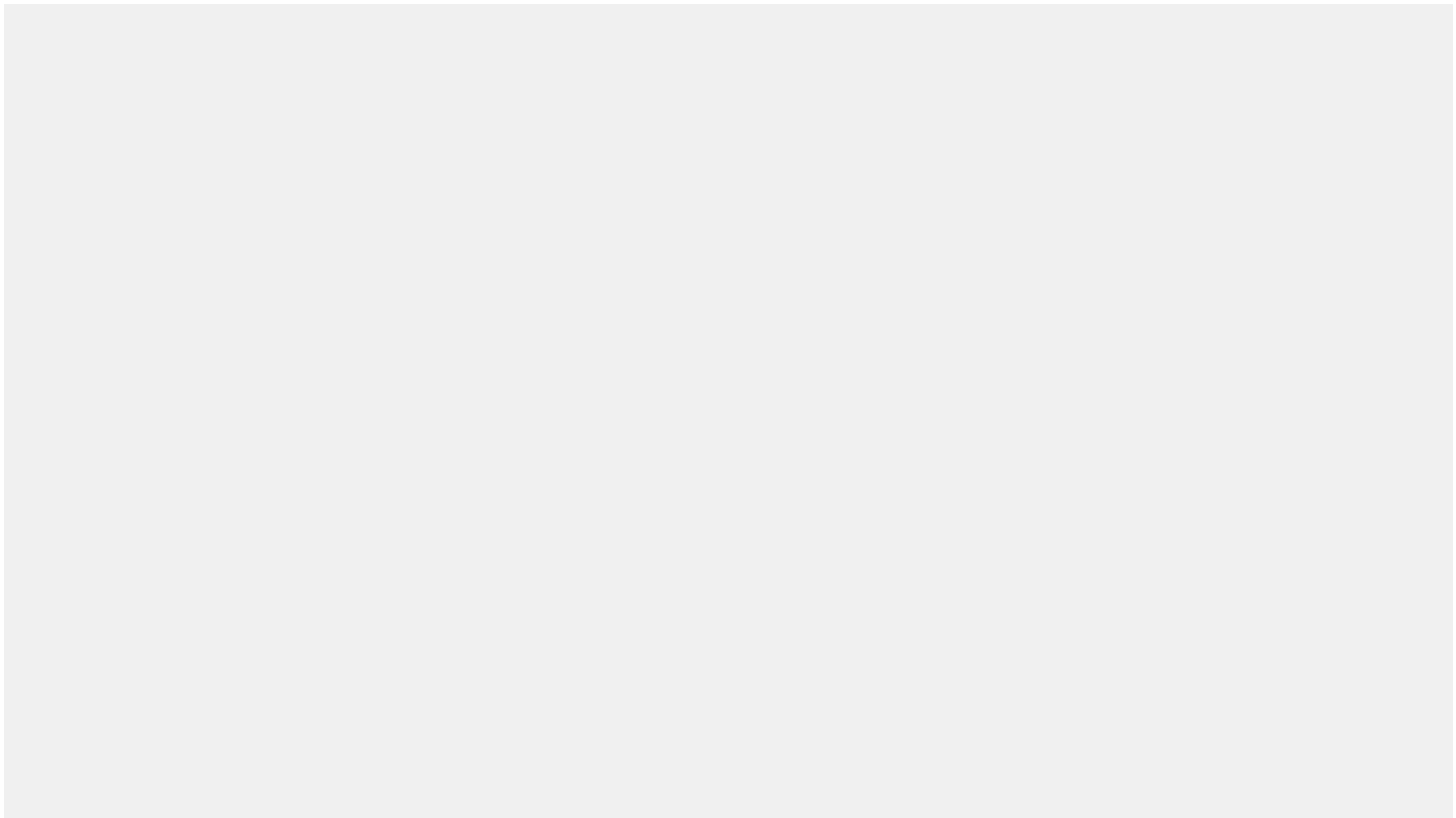
**Every single teacher at a primary school has quit - and they're blaming stress and the head**





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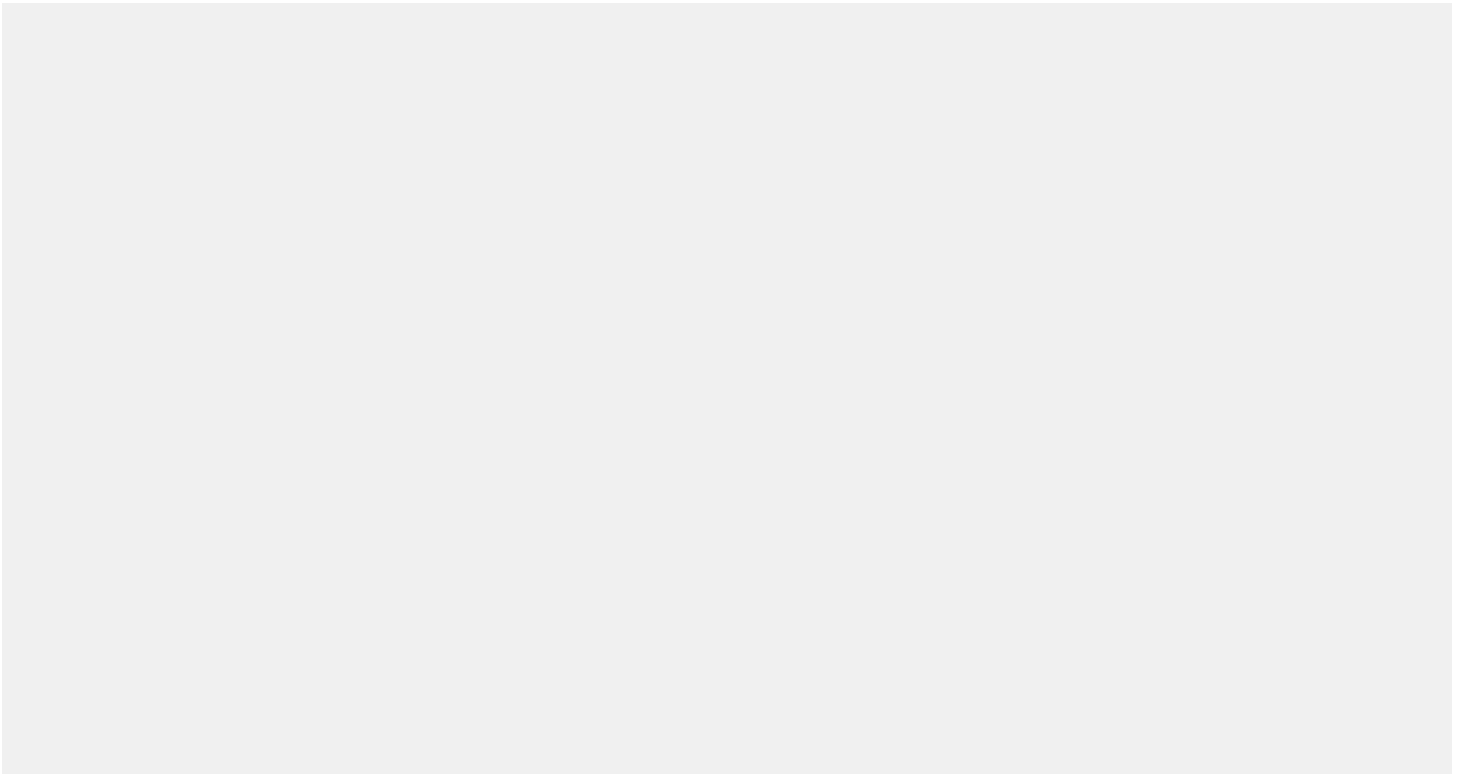






CHARLIE GARD

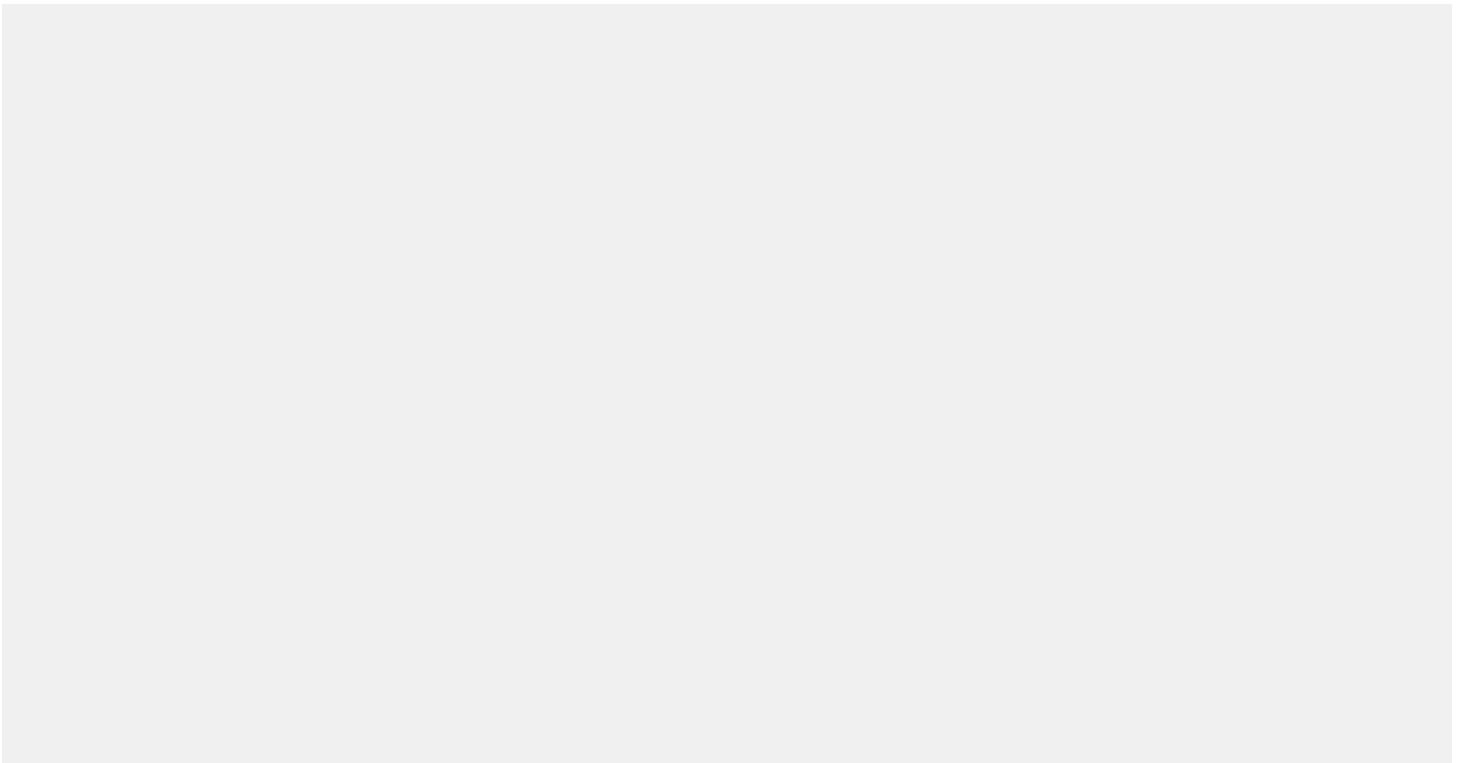
Charlie Gard's dad yells "evil" and mum bursts into tears after hospital reveals new scan makes "sad reading"





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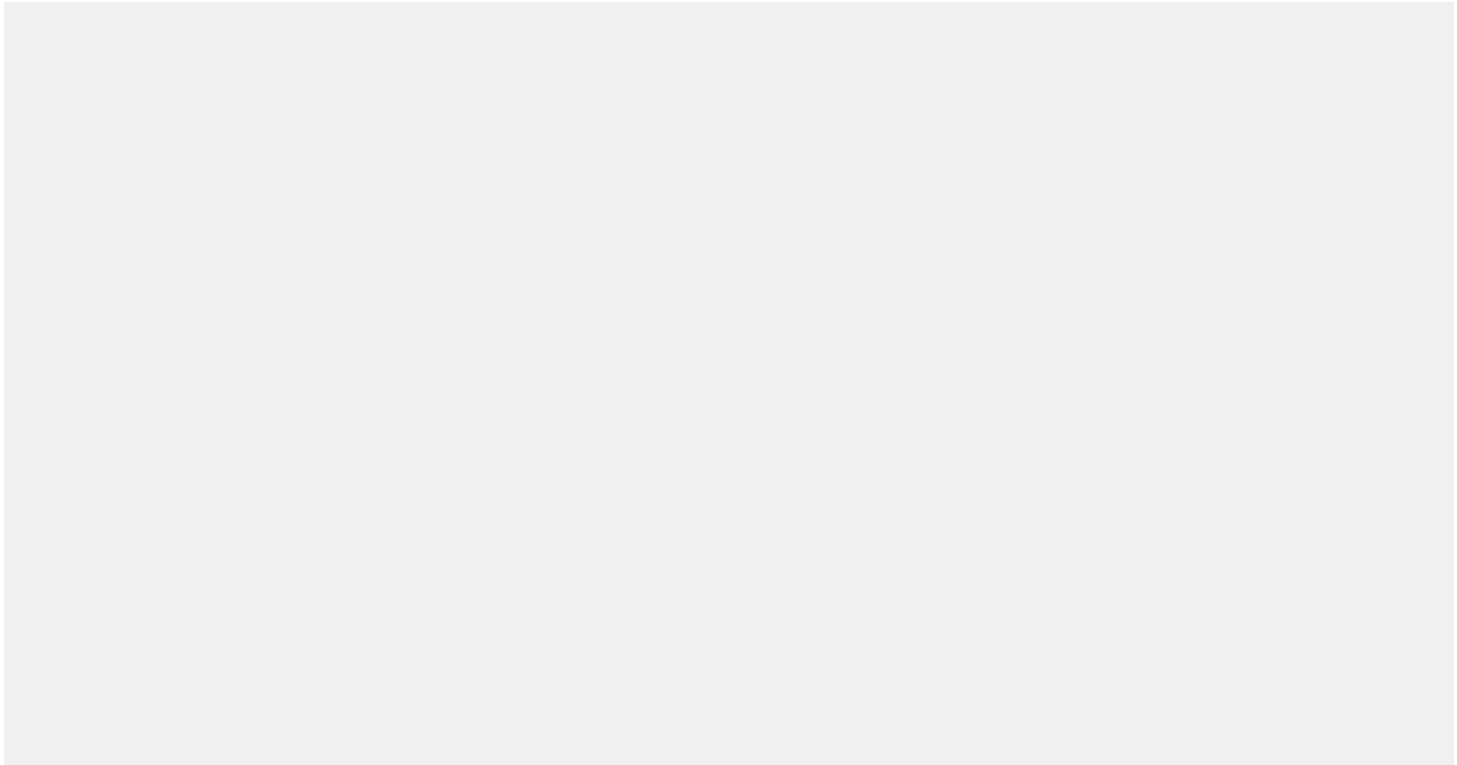
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Unrepentant: Lord Hanningfield speaks outside his Essex home (Image: Phil Harris / Daily Mirror)



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David Cameron last night backed calls to clampdown on lazy peers in the wake of [Lord Hanningfield's shameful clocking-in scandal](#).

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The PM said he was “dismayed” at the Mirror’s revelation that the crooked Tory claimed a £300 attendance fee for spending just minutes in the House.

Lib Dem leader Nick Clegg branded former jailbird Lord Hanningfield “greedy” and called again for peers to be elected and answerable to voters.

Cabinet minister Lord Hill yesterday announced cross-party crisis talks in a move to stop other

grasping peers getting away with doing little for their hefty allowances. But he admitted the current Code of Conduct is too lax.

Fellow Lords sat grim-faced and silent as he gave his damning verdict on Lord Hanningfield's shame.

He said: "Like me, the Noble Lords will have been completely dismayed to read the reports in the press this morning about the behaviour of a member of our House.

"Dismayed about the behaviour, dismayed about the shadow it casts over the whole House."

Asked by the Mirror about the latest liggng scandal, Mr Cameron's official spokesman replied: "The Prime Minister share's Lord Hill's view which is dismay to read reports this morning in your newspaper.

"And one of the things Lord Hill has said, and this is a view shared by all the group leaders in the House of Lords, is that they should look to amend the Code of Conduct to make it possible for us to have more discretion to take action against those who, in future, bring the House into disrepute."

As things stand, peers cannot be kicked out of Parliament no matter what they have done.



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Sir Bob Russell, the MP who first raised the issue of Lord Hanningfield's expenses, accused him of treating the House of Lords "like a piggy bank".

The Lib Dem said: "Lord Hanningfield has rewritten the rules of Monopoly. In Monopoly you go to jail and do not collect £200.

"He has been to jail but is still turning up at the House of Lords every day and collecting £300."

Sleaze watchdog Paul Kernaghan has been urged to probe Lord Hanningfield's £300-a-day attendance claims.

In a letter to the Lords Standards Commission, MP John Mann also urged him to investigate the peer's claims he could "name 50 others" who do the same.

Labour's Baroness Jan Royall will push for the new rules to include a minimum working week in return for the generous expenses when the crisis talks happen after the Christmas break.

A source said: "The House should consider bringing in a minimum number of hours of attendance during Lords business.

"None of us on these benches have any sympathy for what the likes of Hanningfield get up to."

Tories stressed the urgent rewrite of House of Lords rules comes on top of new sanctions for peers who shame Parliament and government-backed efforts to kick out criminals.

But the Lib Dems insisted that did not go far enough and only an elected chamber would stop such scandals in the Lords, which costs taxpayers £110million a year to run.

Lord Oakeshott said: "You can stroll out of the prison gates in the morning and into the Lords after lunch and claim your allowances.

"It is completely unacceptable that we have a system of convicted criminals sitting in the Lords and voting on our laws.

"We need the place to be cleaned up, we need it elected. The whole thing is a mess."

Lord Oakeshott said the current system relied on the honesty of the 830 peers.

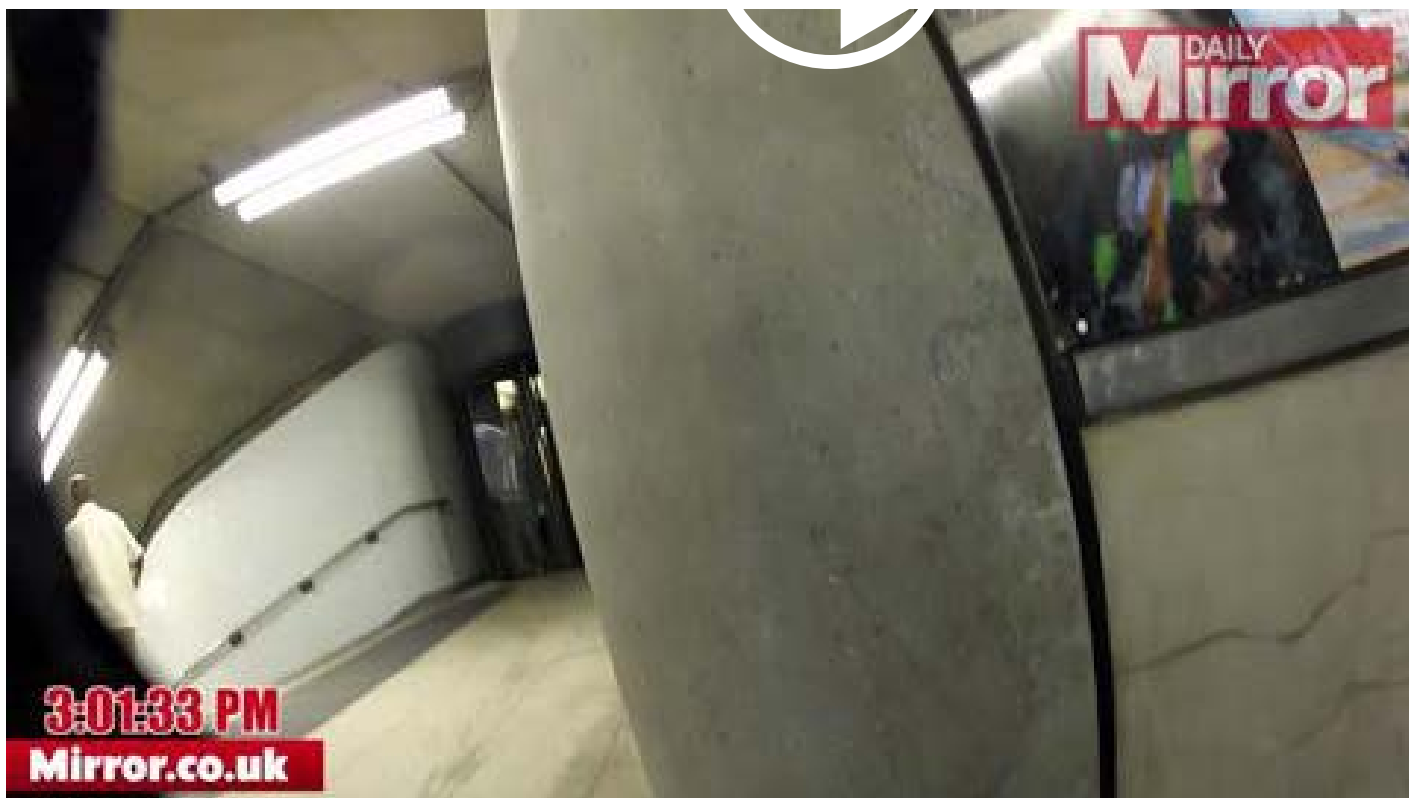
He added: "If you attend the chamber, briefly even at all, in one day, you're entitled to claim £300 tax-free, that is the system.

"Now, obviously, people do Lords work which doesn't mean you have to be in the chamber all the time. But we are on our honour, obviously, not to claim £300 if we haven't done a substantial amount of activity."

Campaigners queued up to praise the Mirror's investigation, and said it proved the House of Lords needed modernising.



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Ms Ghose said MPs had regarded Lords reform as “dead for the foreseeable future” but insisted they were wrong.

She said: “As the second chamber swells beyond its capacity to do its job properly, reform is back on the agenda whether the party leaders like it or not.

“In an era when more and more people are turning away from politics, it’s vital we refresh our institutions so that they’re fit for purpose in the 21st century.

“An elected House of Lords would allow the public to hold their lawmakers to account, and that’s what democracy is all about.”

Alexandra Runswick, of Unlock Democracy said the Mirror’s revelations were “just the tip of the iceberg”.

She added: “When MPs’ expenses were exposed, the public had the opportunity to vote out the worst offenders, and they used it.

“These abuses have continued with impunity in the Lords because unelected peers are totally unaccountable to the public.



“Even Lords who are convicted of serious offences have been allowed to go straight back into Parliament.

“The only way the culture of the Lords will change is when voters, not party leaders, decide who is fit to sit in the second chamber.”



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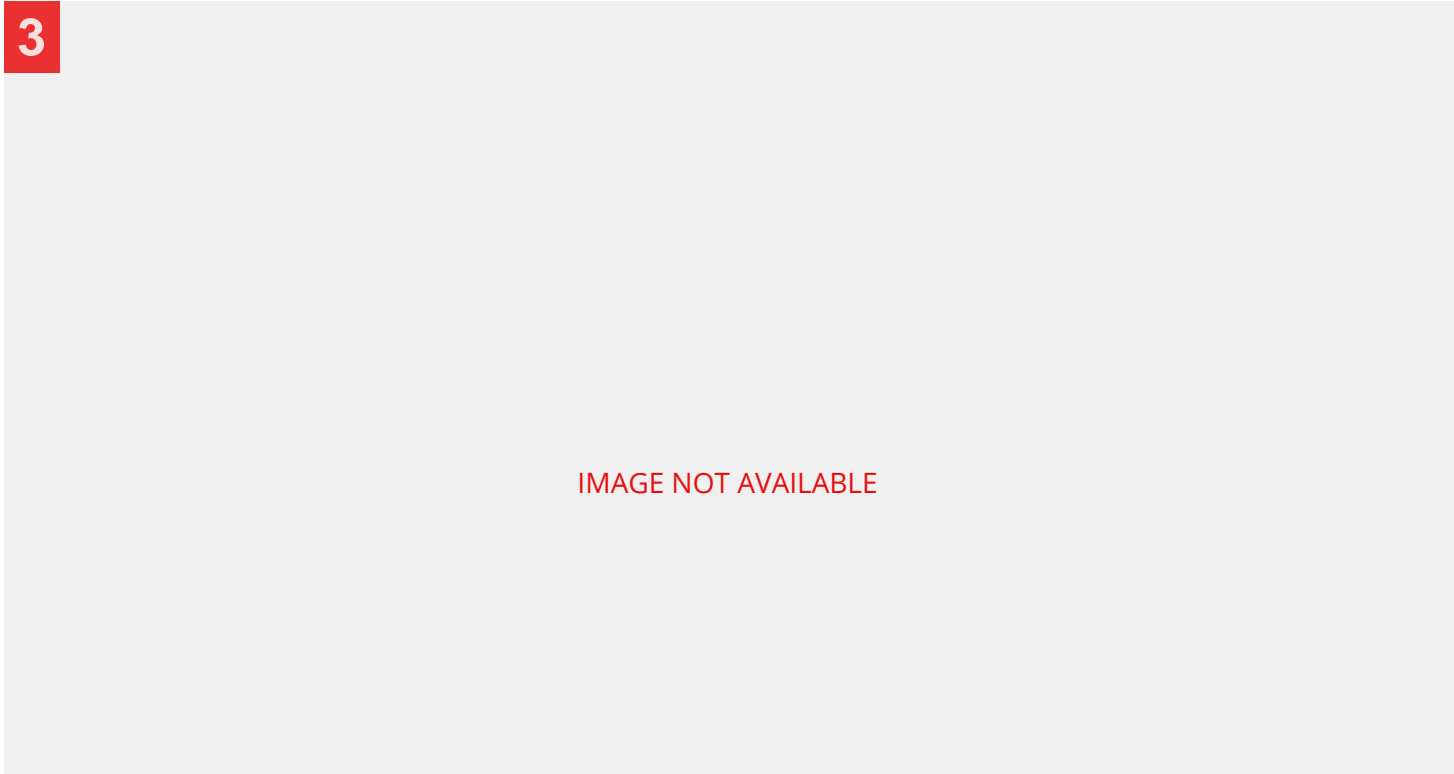
Barrister Katie Gollop QC broke the news on Friday during the latest stage of the couple's legal fight over treatment for the terminally-ill baby

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CRIME

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Every single teacher at a primary school has quit - and they're blaming stress and the head

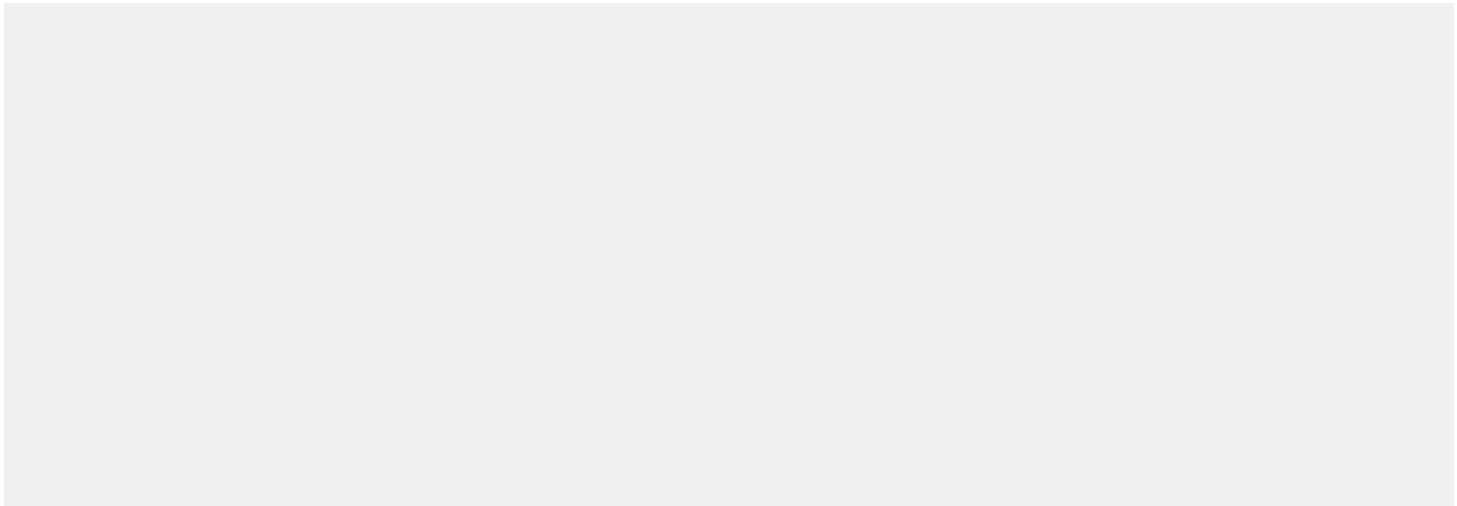
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Missing RAF serviceman Corrie McKeague 'was known to sleep in rubbish after night out' as landfill search is called off

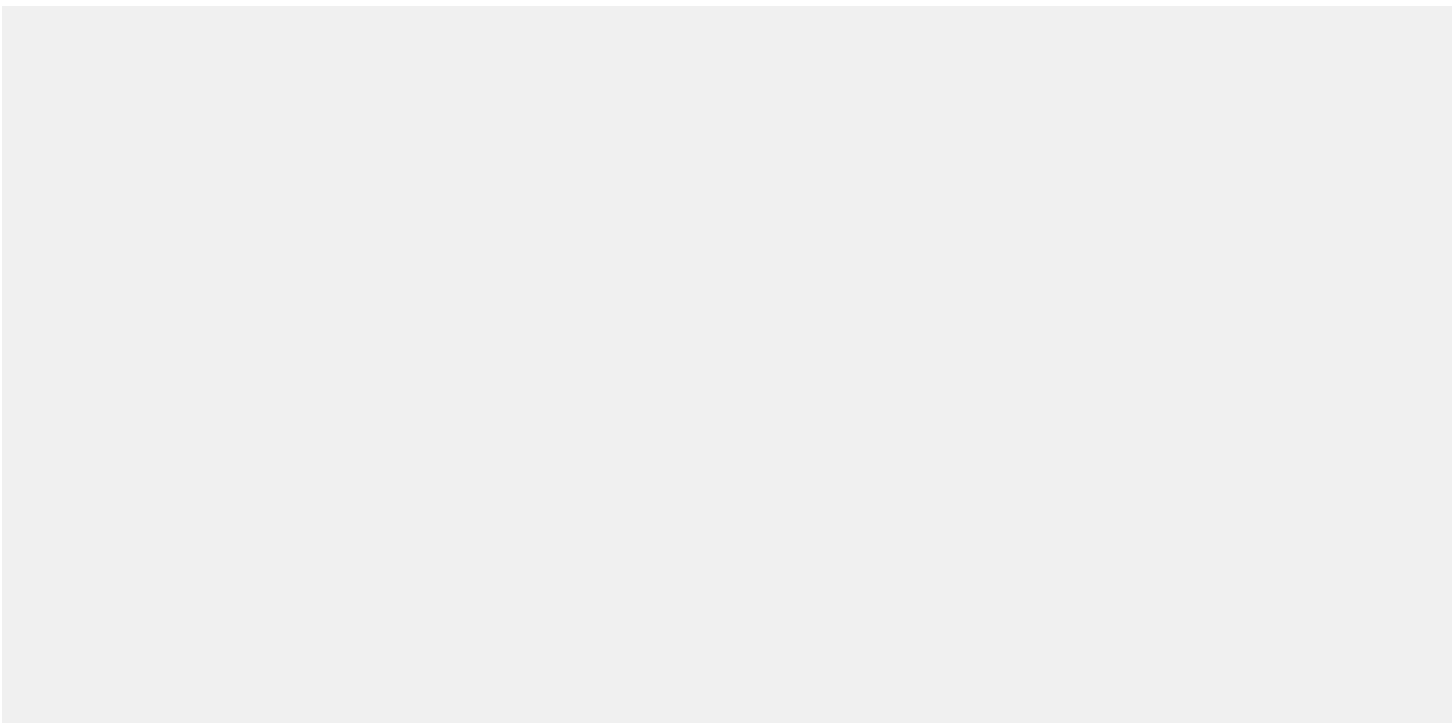
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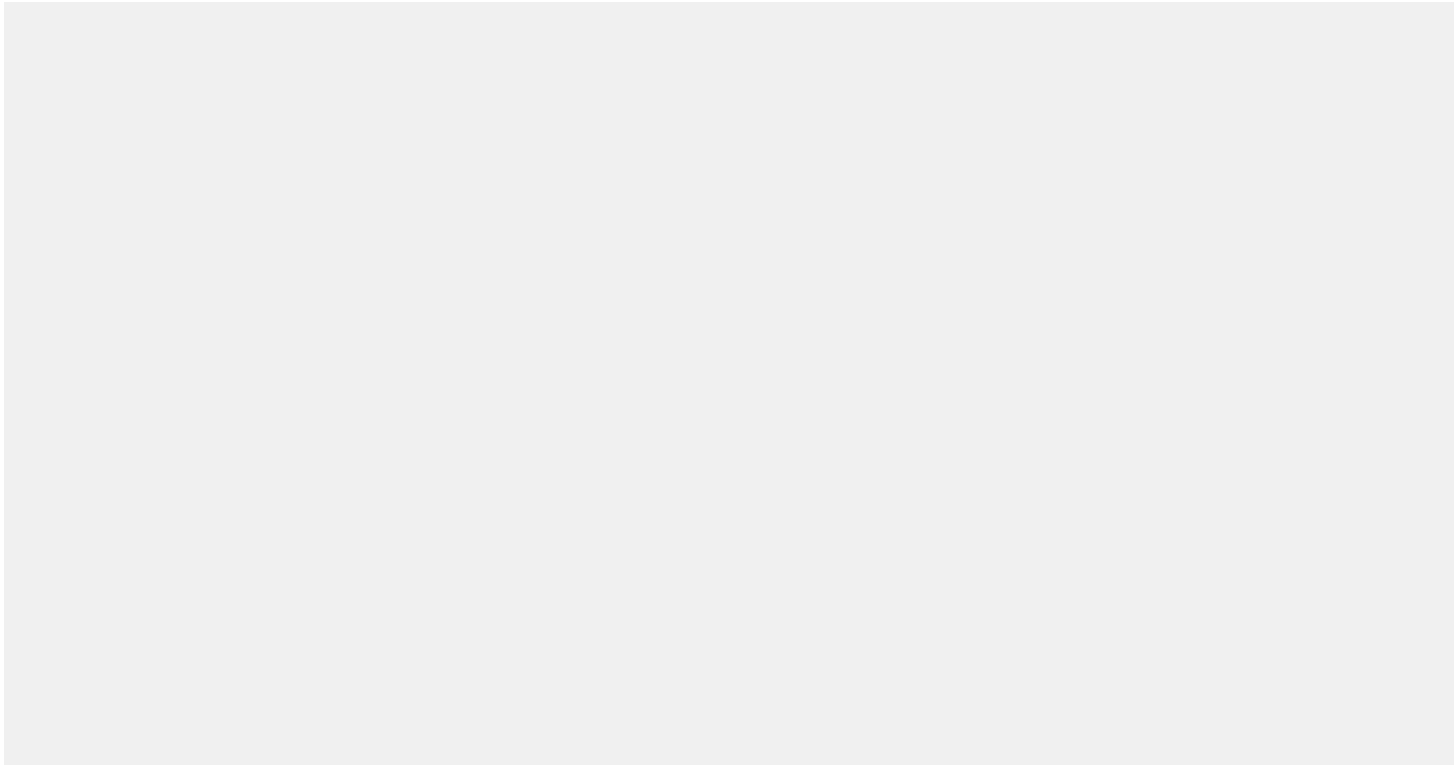




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Dad left mortified after he films WRONG girl at daughter's university graduation

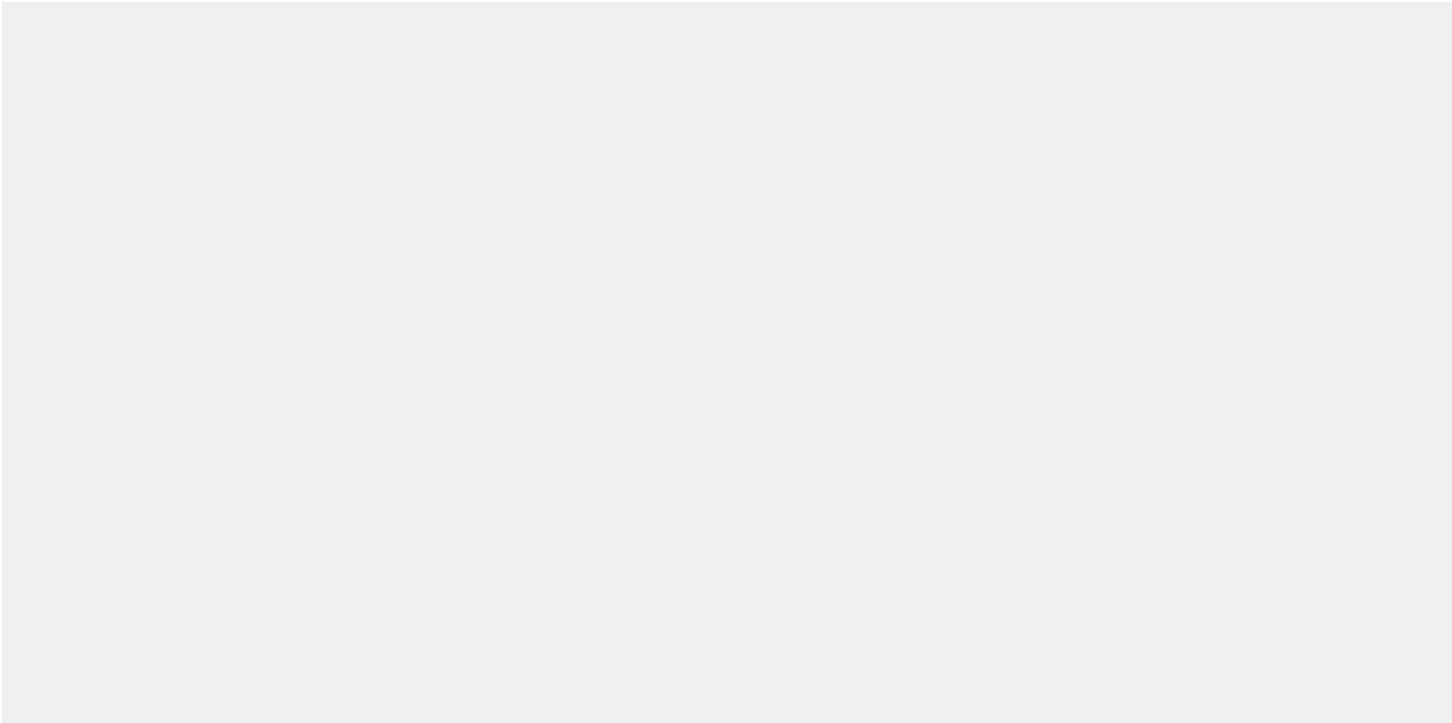
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Linkin Park's rocker found hanged on bedroom door with half-empty bottle of alcohol lying nearby - but no suicide note



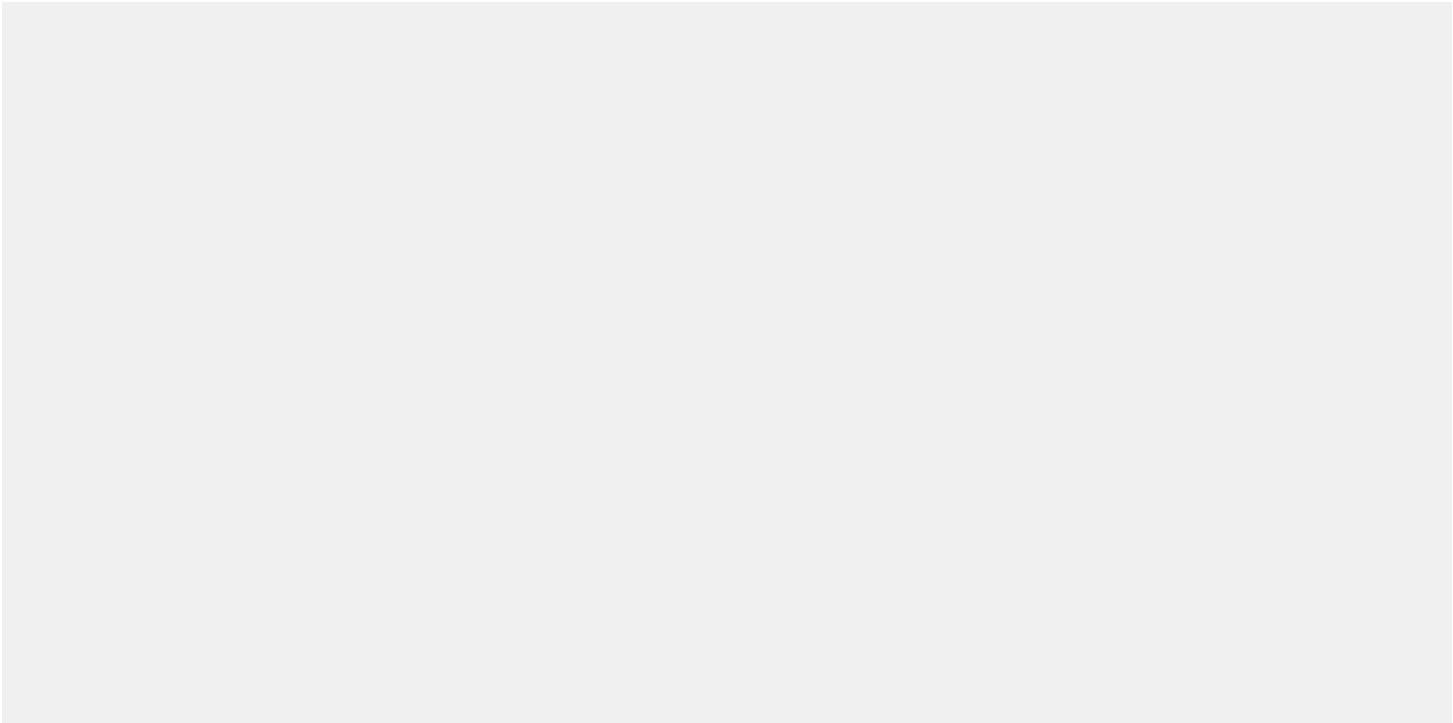




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Sadistic OAP forced children to drink juice mixed with bleach and shower in scalding hot water in reign of horrific abuse

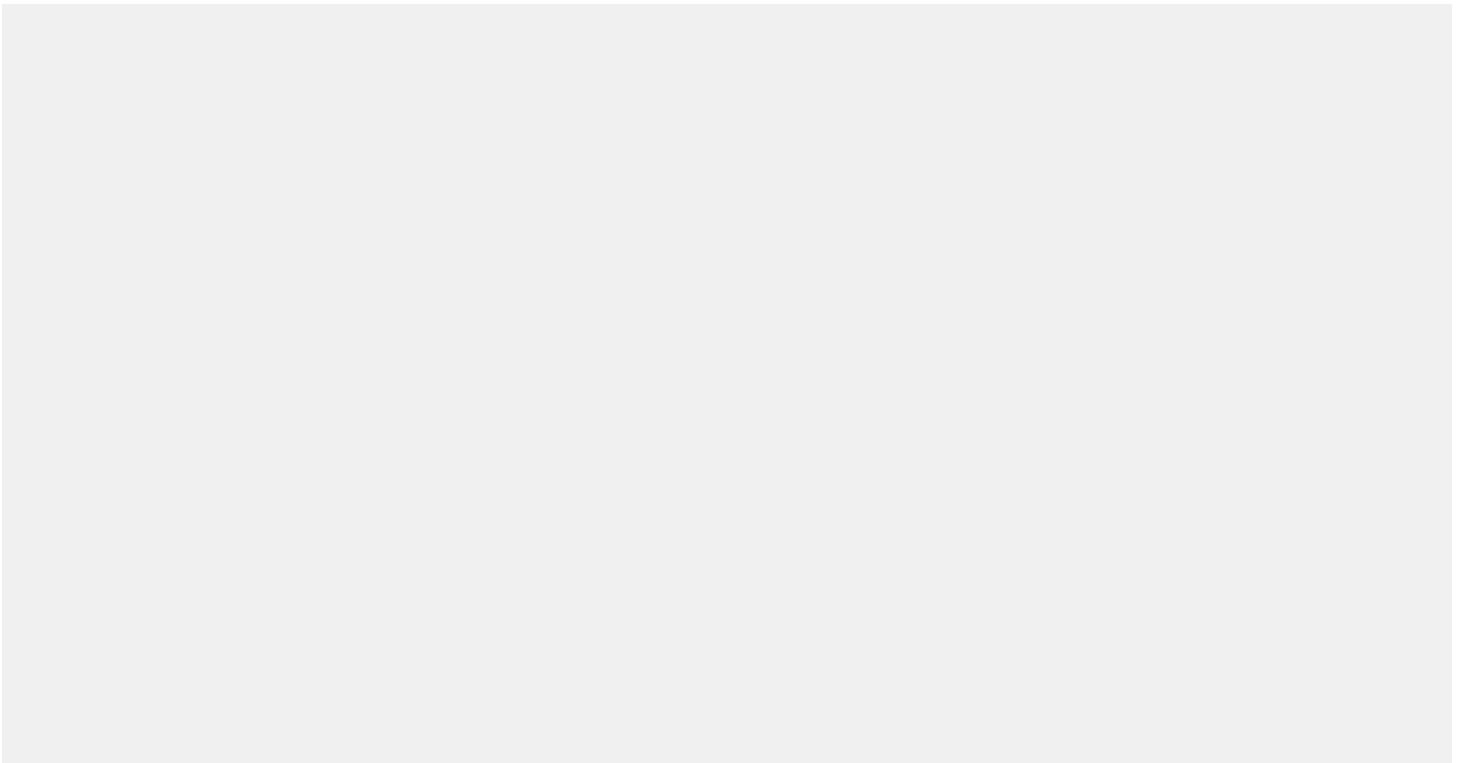
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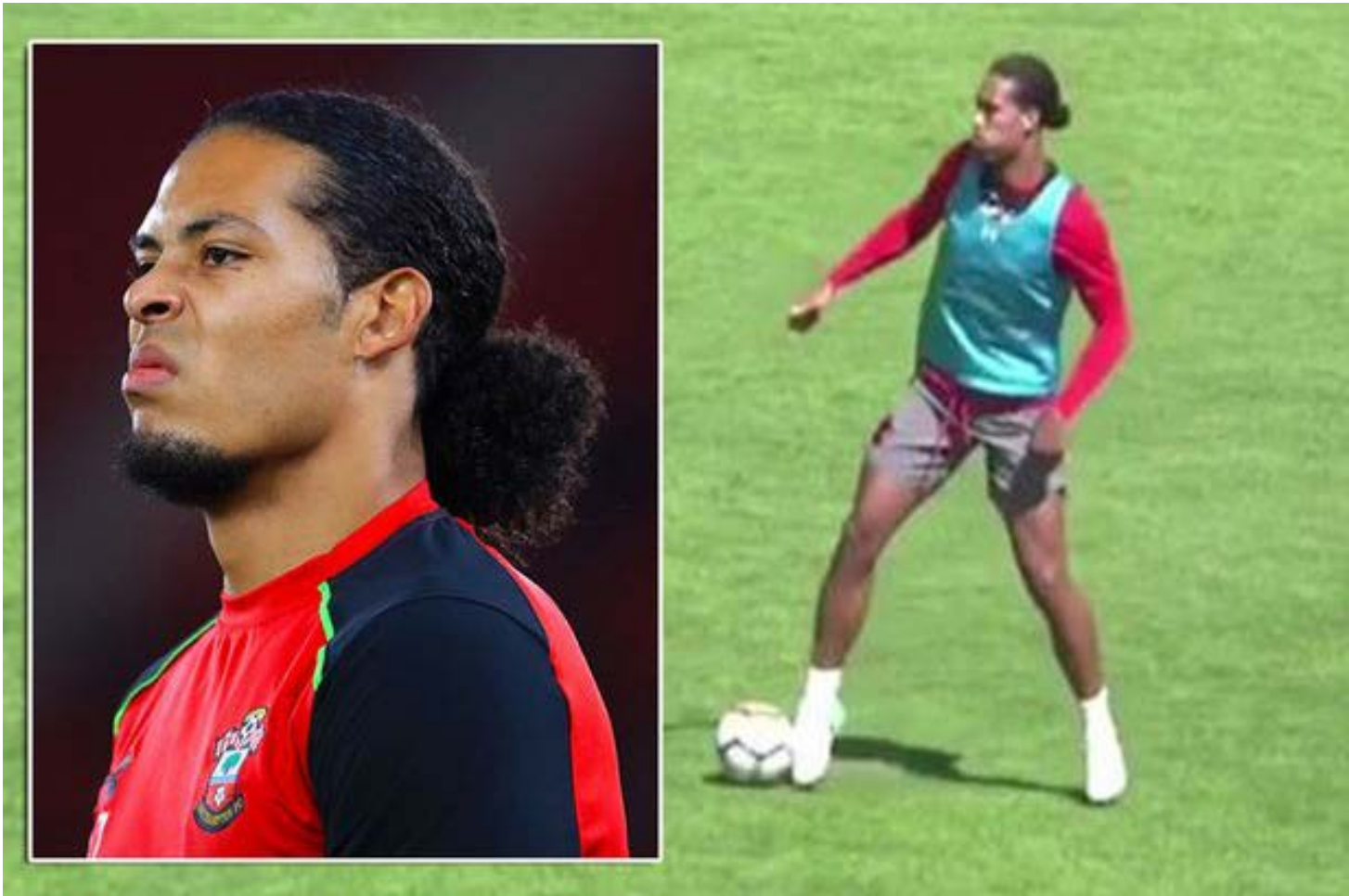




#### SCHOOLS

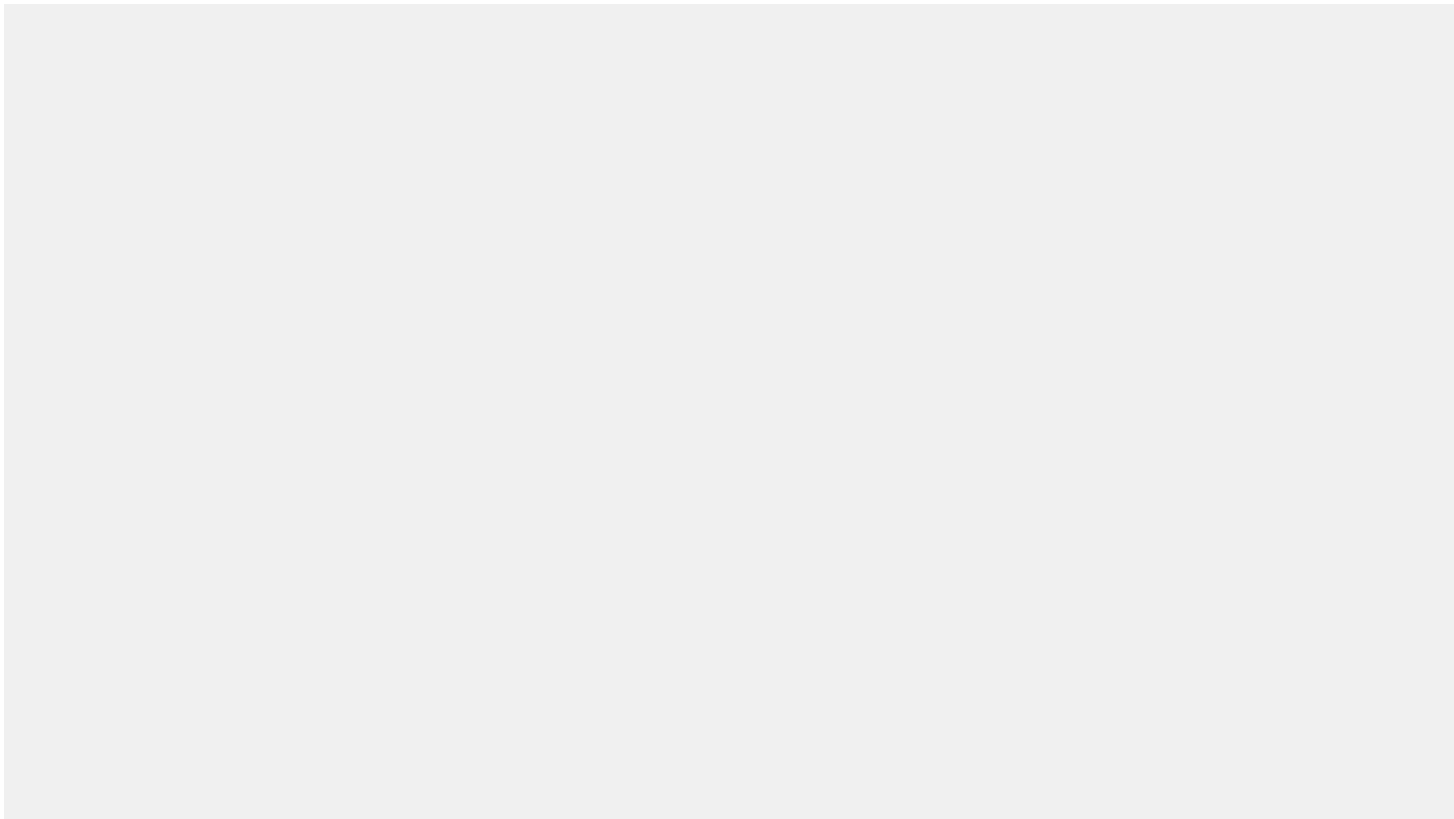
**Every single teacher at a primary school has quit - and they're blaming stress and the head**





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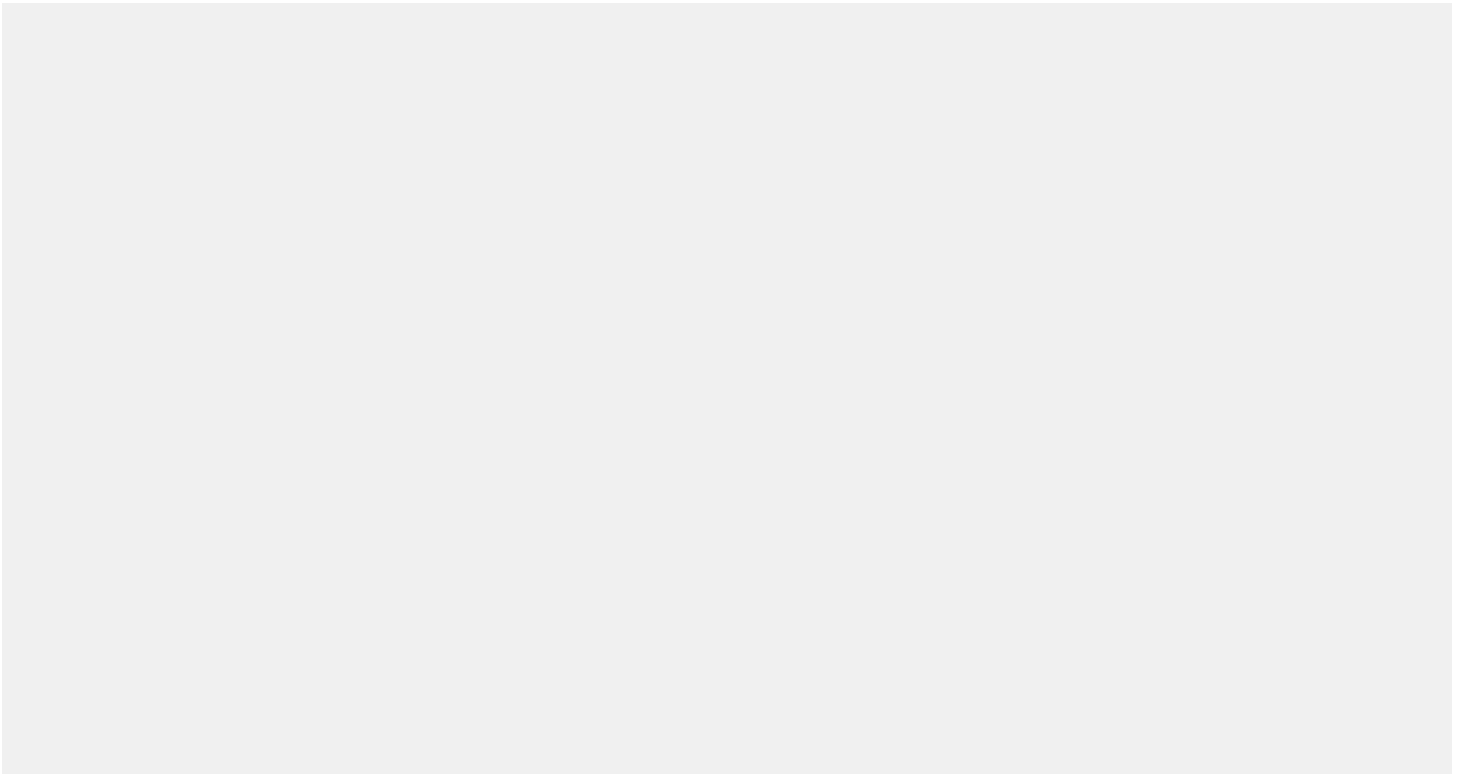






CHARLIE GARD

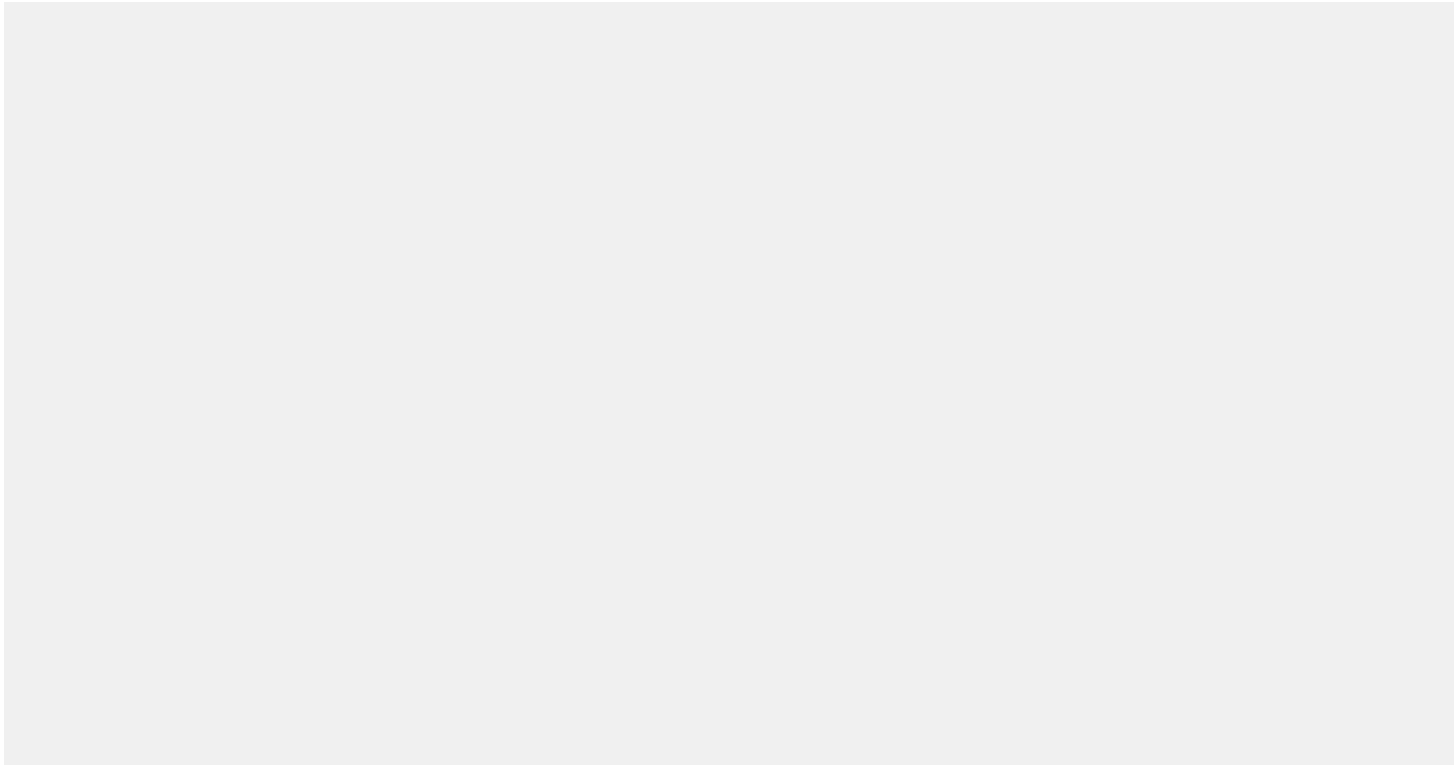
**Charlie Gard's dad yells "evil" and mum bursts into tears after hospital reveals new scan makes "sad reading"**





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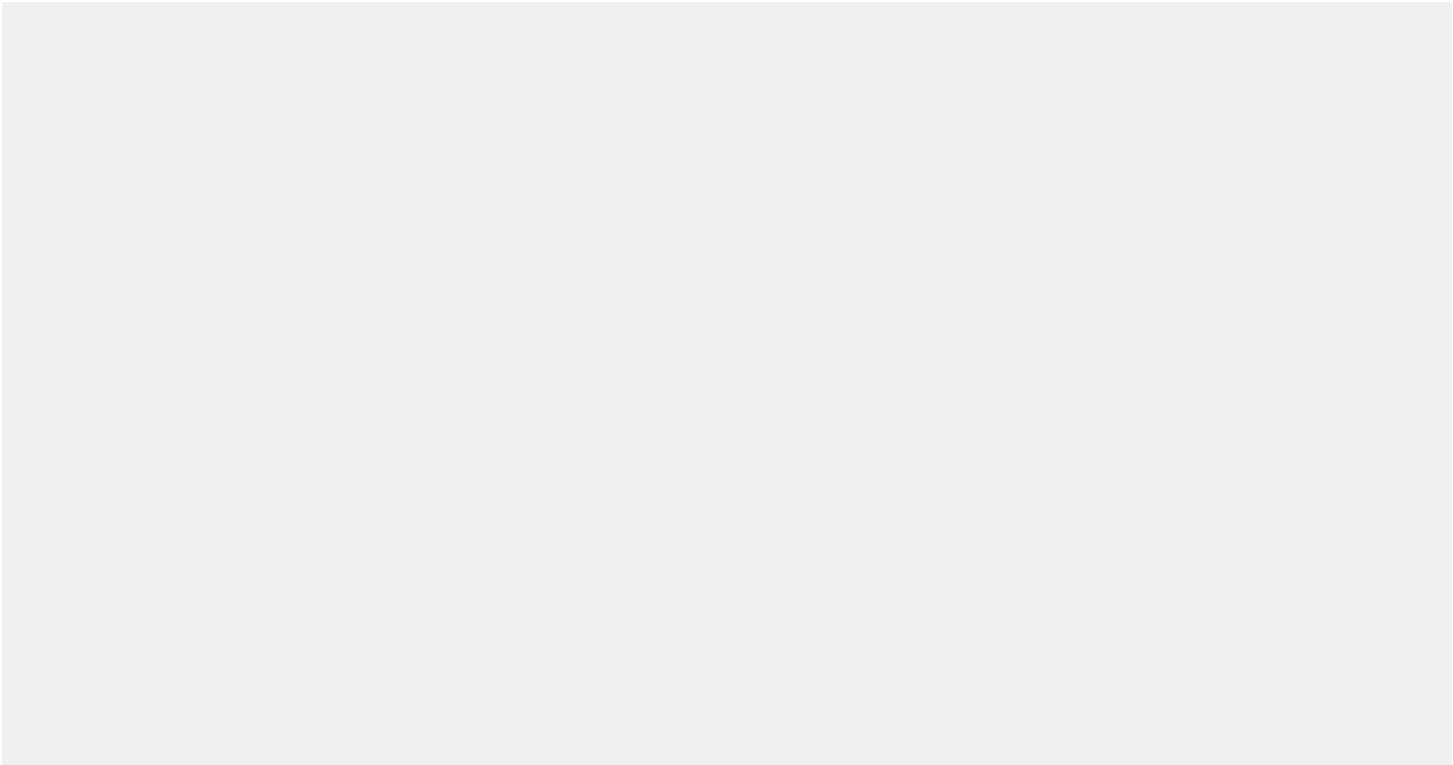
Mum-of-two reveals 'trauma' of three-year-old daughter catching her having sex with her boyfriend





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Secret underground tunnels below streets of Liverpool unearthed for first time in more than 100 years

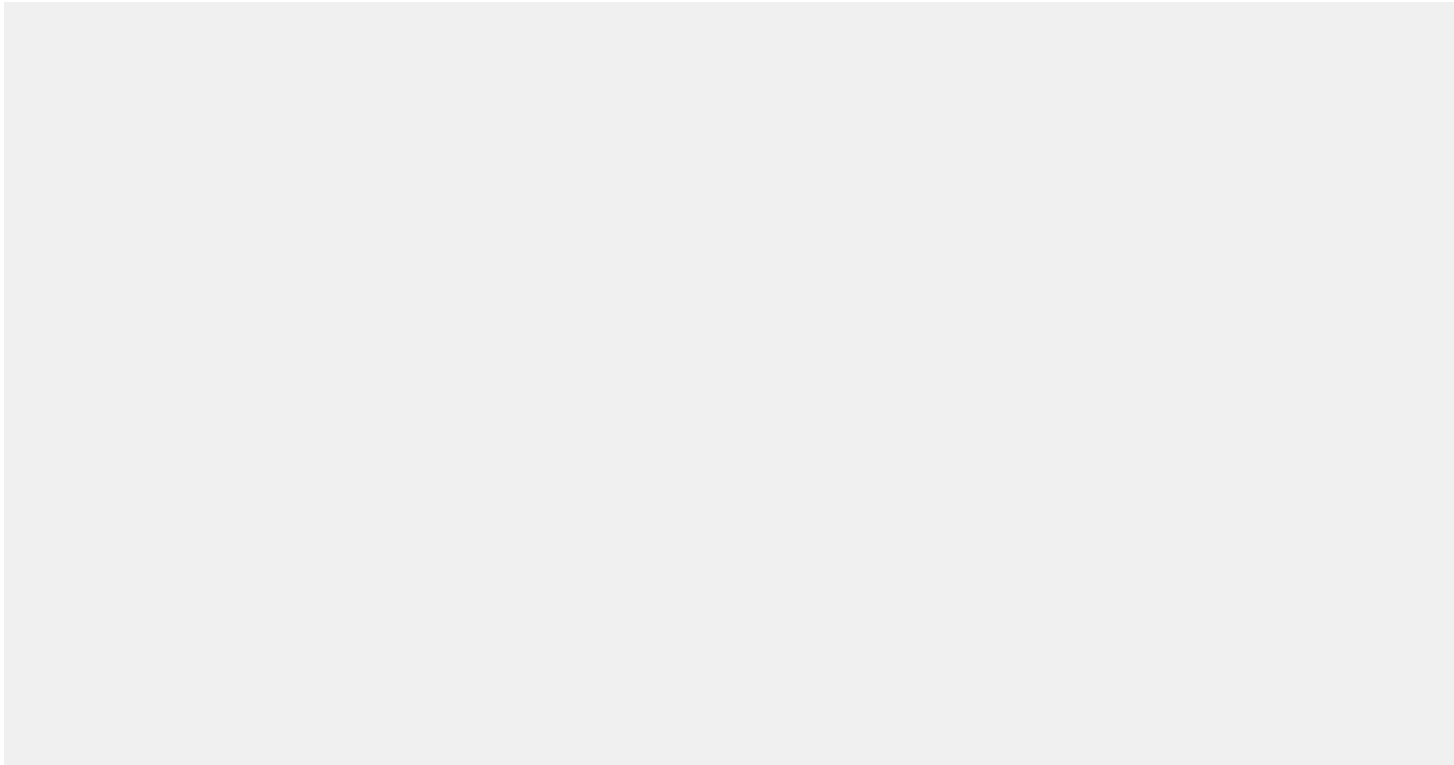






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NEWS

# VIDEO: Ex-Tory Lord Hanningfield exposed in 'clocking in' scandal ripping off taxpayers for thousands of pounds

The 73-year-old peer has previous for milking the system. He spent nine months behind bars for fiddling his accounts in the last Westminster expenses scandal

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BY DAVID COLLINS  
07:44, 17 DEC 2013 | UPDATED 12:58, 17 DEC 2013

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Picking up £300 a day for doing virtually nothing usually goes like clockwork for money-grabbing baron Lord Hanningfield.

The 73-year-old peer is ripping off taxpayers to the tune of thousands of pounds by simply turning up and clocking in to the Lords.

He often spends barely half an hour there before turning on his heels and leaving again – racking up his £300 daily attendance allowance without taking part in any votes, discussions or meetings.

But now he was facing a Parliamentary probe – after the Mirror exposed his shameless scam.

On one occasion we photographed him arriving at the Lords and leaving again just 21 minutes later – earning him more than £14 a minute.

It is barely time to walk to the chamber for his attendance to be officially noted.

Shockingly in just one month this year he claimed £5,700 with his quick “clock in, clock out” technique.

Hanningfield has previous for milking the system. He spent nine months behind bars for fiddling his accounts in the last Westminster expenses scandal.

Now he has his snout in the trough again – claiming more than £50,000 since he returned to Parliament in April 2012.

But up until the start of October this year he attended NO committee meetings, made NO

speeches and asked NO questions in the House despite his lucrative expenses claims.

The former Tory front-bencher, who had the party whip withdrawn when he was jailed, was followed for 19 days in July by our undercover reporters.

And they compiled a Diary of Disgrace revealing that for 11 days out of the 19 he spent less than 40 minutes each time inside of Parliament.

The Lord turns up each day to have his attendance noted by a clerk – but there are no checks on how long he stays for him to qualify for his allowance.

Our expose raises serious questions over whether other peers are claiming excessive amounts simply for popping in and out of the 300-year-old chamber which costs more than £100million a year to run.

It also piles pressure on Westminster watchdogs to hold peers more accountable for their expenses claims.

Although the Mirror completed its investigation at the end of July, we had to wait six months until Hanningfield's claims were made public on the Parliamentary website.

**Hanningfield – real name Paul White – has claimed he is working to “rebuild his political career” following his prison stint.**

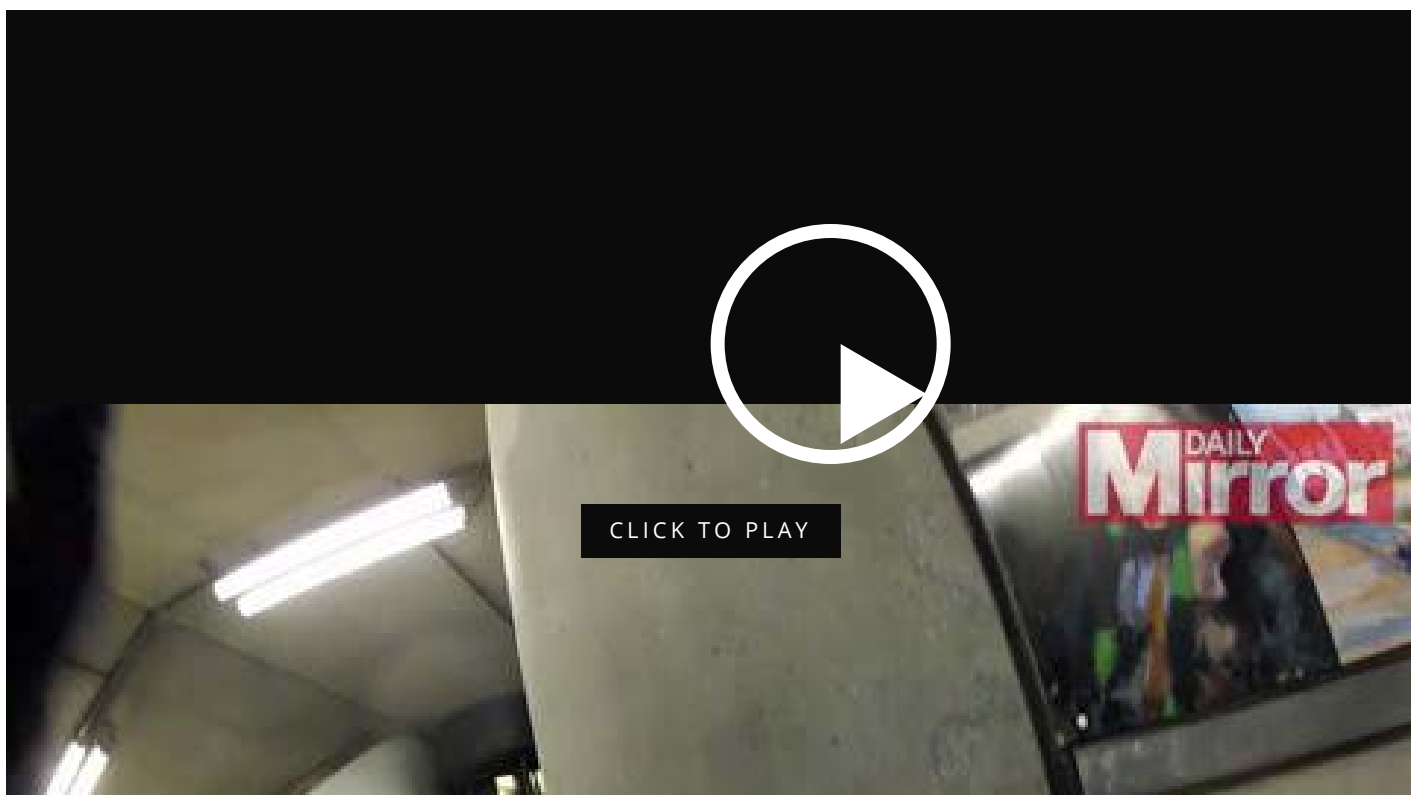
But on July 16 our reporters secretly shot video footage of his normal daily routine.

We saw him drive 15 minutes from his home in West Hanningfield, Essex, to Ingatestone station where he parked his blue Audi A3 at 1.20pm.

He bought a £25 return ticket at the automated machine on the platform and caught the 1.32pm train to London, where he switched to the Underground. We filmed him arriving at Westminster Tube station at 2.36pm.

Hanningfield accessed Parliament by ducking into a private door inside the station leading to an underground passage to the Houses of Parliament at 2.37pm.





He appeared smart and professional, looking like he was ready to take on a day's work, possibly joining in an important debate in the main chamber.

But after strolling through the House and getting his attendance recorded by the Journal Office, he was off again – leaving via the same entrance at 3.01pm.

Our video proves Hanningfield was inside just 24 minutes and five seconds to qualify for his £300 fee.

He slowly walked through the tube station, with the clock overhead clearly showing the time as 3.03pm.

He then jumped on a Circle and District line train to head home.

At 4.15pm we saw him arrive back at Ingatestone, get in his car and return to his £700,000 bungalow up a leafy lane in West Hanningfield village, in Essex.

It was a packed schedule in the Lords that day, but Hanningfield played no part in affairs of state including a statement on Northern Ireland, discussion of the Care Bill by the entire House, and a debate on the Congo. The House of Lords finished for the day at 10. 27pm -

more than six hours after Hanningfield arrived home to put his feet up.

But that didn't stop Lord Hanningfield claiming a full day's attendance rate of £300.

Our reporters witnessed this same pattern occurring again and again throughout the month of July.

The longest time he spent in Parliament was on July 30th - the final day of the summer session - and it lasted 5 hours and 12 minutes.

Parliamentary records show Lord Hanningfield "absent" for eight votes which took place during July.

These were votes on the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Bill on July 8th, Offender Rehabilitation Bill on July 9th, Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Bill on July 10th, Local Audit and Accountability Bill on July 15th, Mesothelioma Bill on July 17th, Intellectual Property Bill on July 23rd, EU: Police and Criminal Justice Measure on July 23rd, and the Local Audit and Accountability Bill on July 24th.

On July 8th Lord Hanningfield spent 34 minutes in Parliament on the day of the vote on the Marriage Bill, arriving at 2.35pm and leaving at 3.09pm.

The next day he stayed for just 27 minutes when there was a vote on the Offender Rehabilitation Bill. He arrived at 2.35pm loaded down with Marks and Spencers shopping bags, and left at 3.02pm.

He arrived back at Ingatestone train station at 4.15pm, missing the vote as well as statements on the National Curriculum.

The main chamber of the Lords finished at 10.17pm - more than seven hours after he left.

But he always made sure his attendance was noted to qualify for his £300.

On top of that he also claimed £471 in travel costs for July, covering the price of his train ticket and the car park charge at Ingatestone train station.

The House of Lords Guide to Financial Support for Members clearly states: "Members who

certify that they have carried out appropriate Parliamentary work are entitled to claim a daily allowance of £300 for each qualifying day of attendance at Westminster."

► Lord Hanningfield 'clocking in' expenses scandal exposed



Hanningfield began claiming expenses upon his return to Parliament in April last year after his time behind bars.

He claimed £51,300 in attendance allowance between April 2012 and July 2013 but made no speeches in any parliamentary debate.

His silence was finally broken in October by taking part in a debate on East Anglia's rail network.

Lord Hanningfield was caught in the last expenses scandal that exposed parliamentarians for claiming public cash for duck houses, flatscreen televisions and cleaning out moats.



In July, 2011, he was found guilty of wrongly claiming nearly £14,000 after the jury heard he claimed £174 for overnight stays in London when he was not in the capital.

He was released in September 2011 after three months before being placed on a home detention curfew.

Lord Hanningfield has paid back around £70,000 for false expenses claims on the orders of a court.

The system of overnight stay allowances for peers was scrapped after Lord Hanningfield and Lord Taylor of Warwick were jailed.

The new £300 attendance fee was bought in to simplify the system and pay peers for their work in Parliament on behalf of the taxpayers they are supposed to serve.

The system of "clocking in" was introduced by the Senior Salaries Review Board which promised to shake up the system at the Lords.

Hanningfield began his working life as Britain's youngest pig farmer at the tender age of 15.

He was educated at the King Edward VI Grammar School in Chelmsford and earned a farming scholarship in the US before returning to Britain.

He joined the National Farmers' Union and by 22 was president of its quality pigs committee.

His career with the NFU gave him a taste for politics and, aged 29, became an councillor for Essex County Council, which he went on to lead between 2001 and 2010.

He was made a life peer in 1998 after a long career in local politics, and took the title of Lord Hanningfield from his home village, West Hanningfield in Essex, where his family still own a farm.

He stepped up to the House of Lords and entered national politics, keeping his role as council leader whilst representing the Tories in Parliament.

Between 1997 and 2001 he was deputy chair and Conservative group leader of the Local Government Association.

He rose to become a shadow minister in 2005.

He was behind a parliamentary question that same year revealing how Tony Blair spent more than £1,800 of public money on cosmetics and make-up artists.

The peer claims to live a normal lifestyle, shopping in Marks & Spencer, and living home alone with his dog.

It was in 2009 when he found himself under the spotlight due to his expenses claims whilst serving in the Lords.

Last night Labour MP John Mann, who campaigned to clean up the Commons, called for Hanningfield to be booted out of the Lords.

He added: "There needs to be a full investigation into how he has been allowed to get away with it. We need to give the House of Lords a proper, transparent spring cleaning."

[Read the transcript of the Mirror confronting Lord Hanningfield here](#)

[Mirror Associate Editor Kevin Maguire says the time is right to abolish the House of Lords](#)

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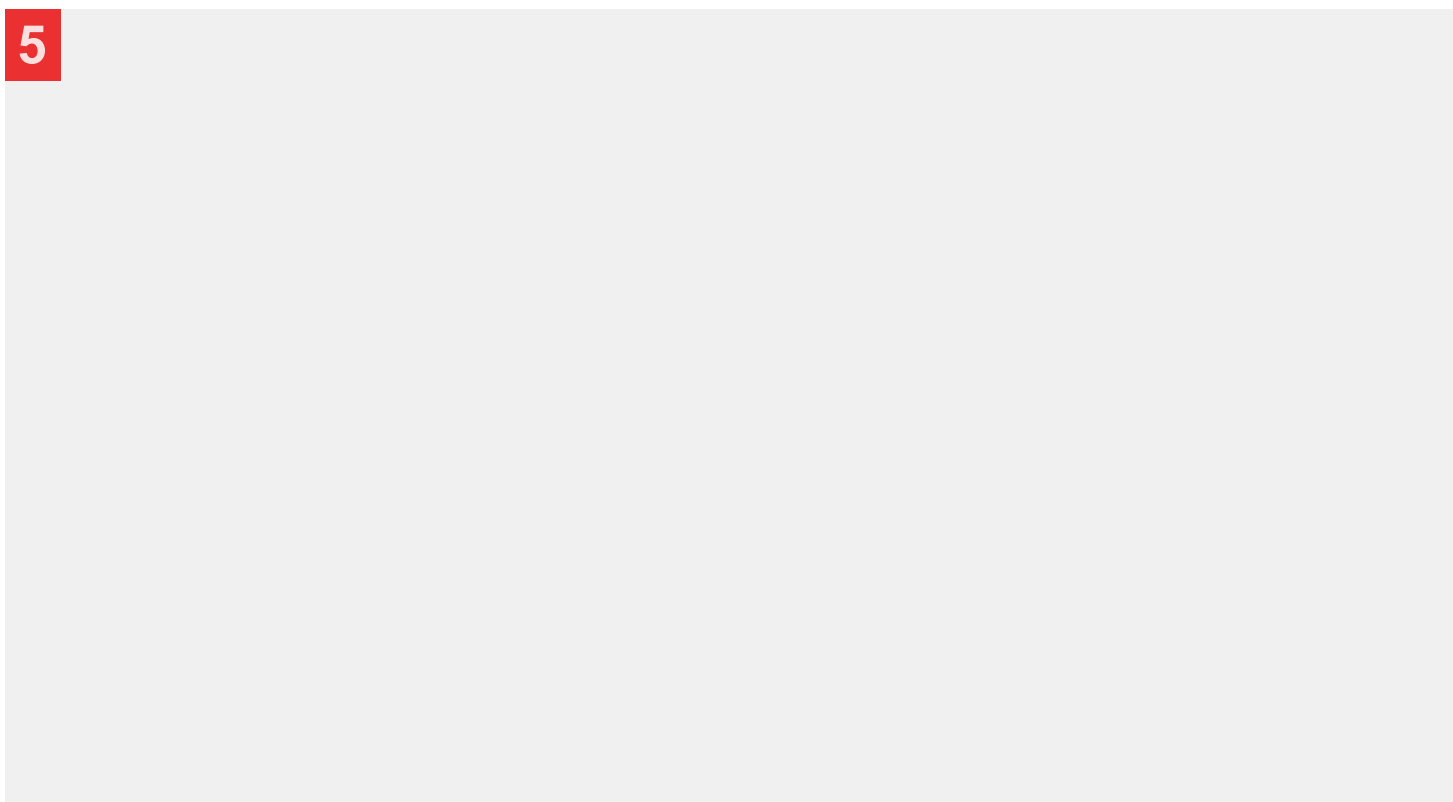
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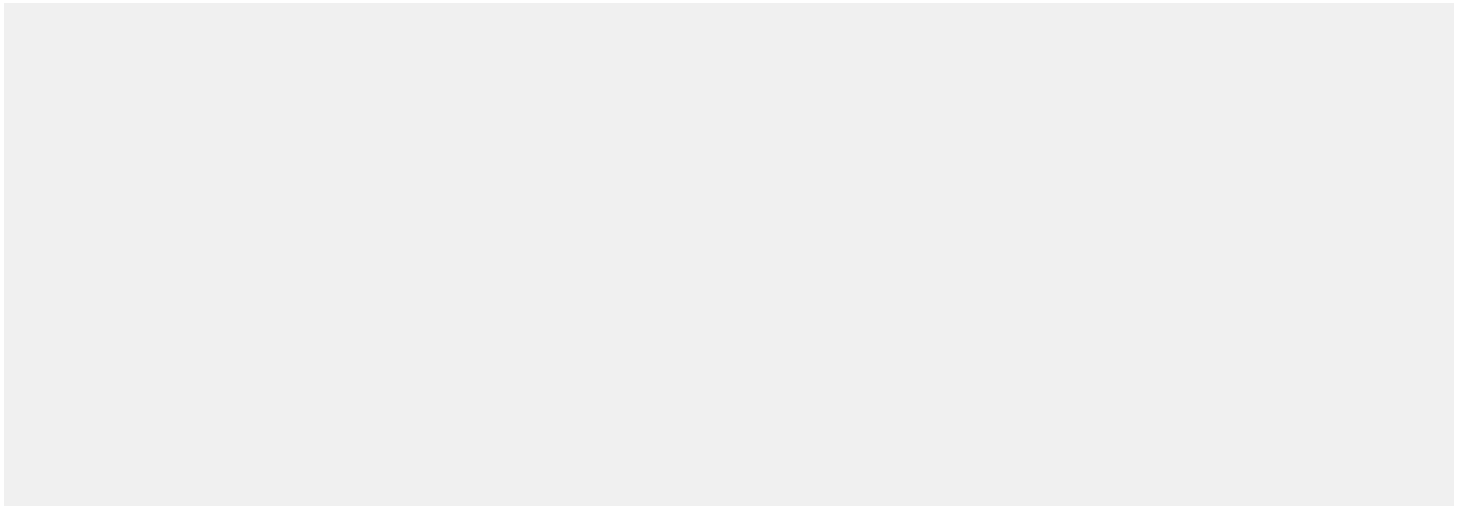




CORRIE MCKEAGUE

Missing RAF serviceman Corrie McKeague 'was known to sleep in rubbish after night out' as landfill search is called off

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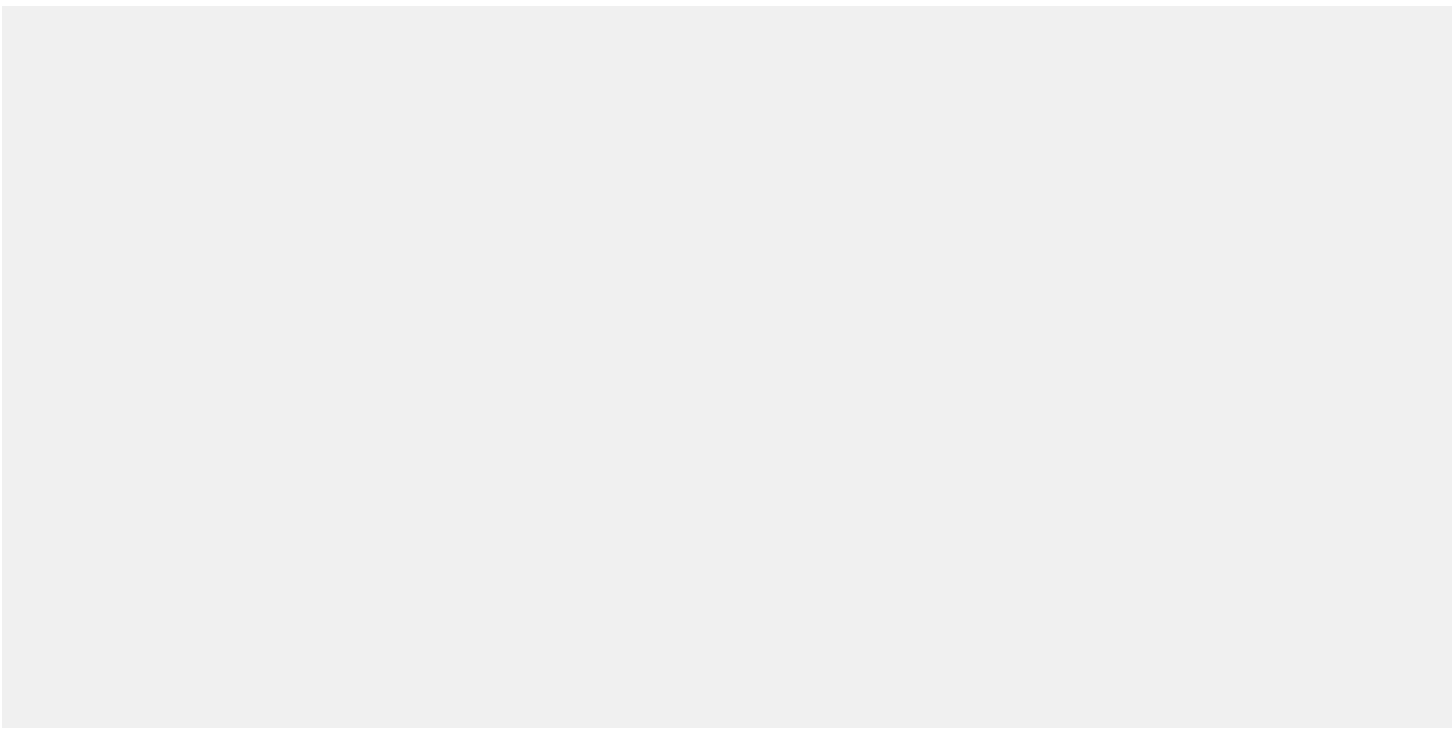






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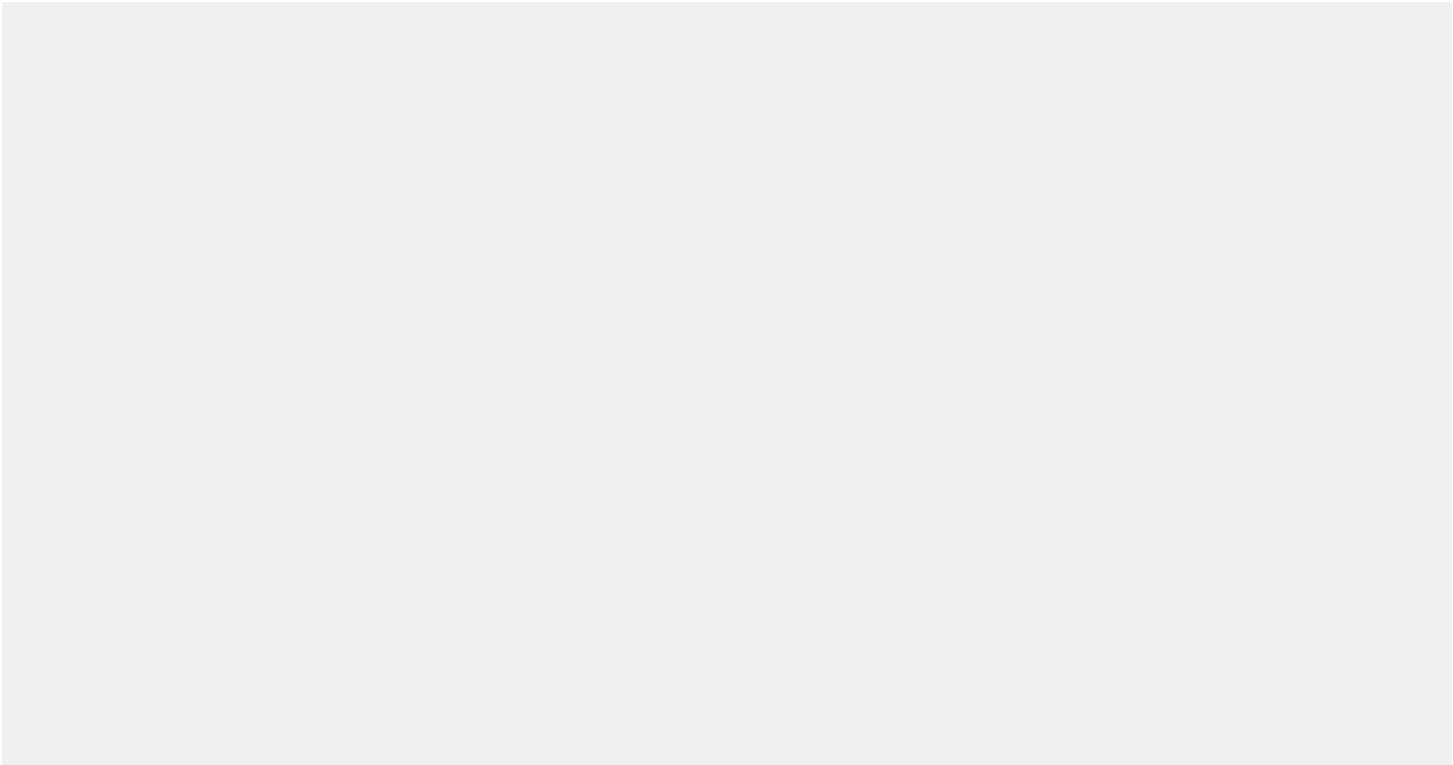
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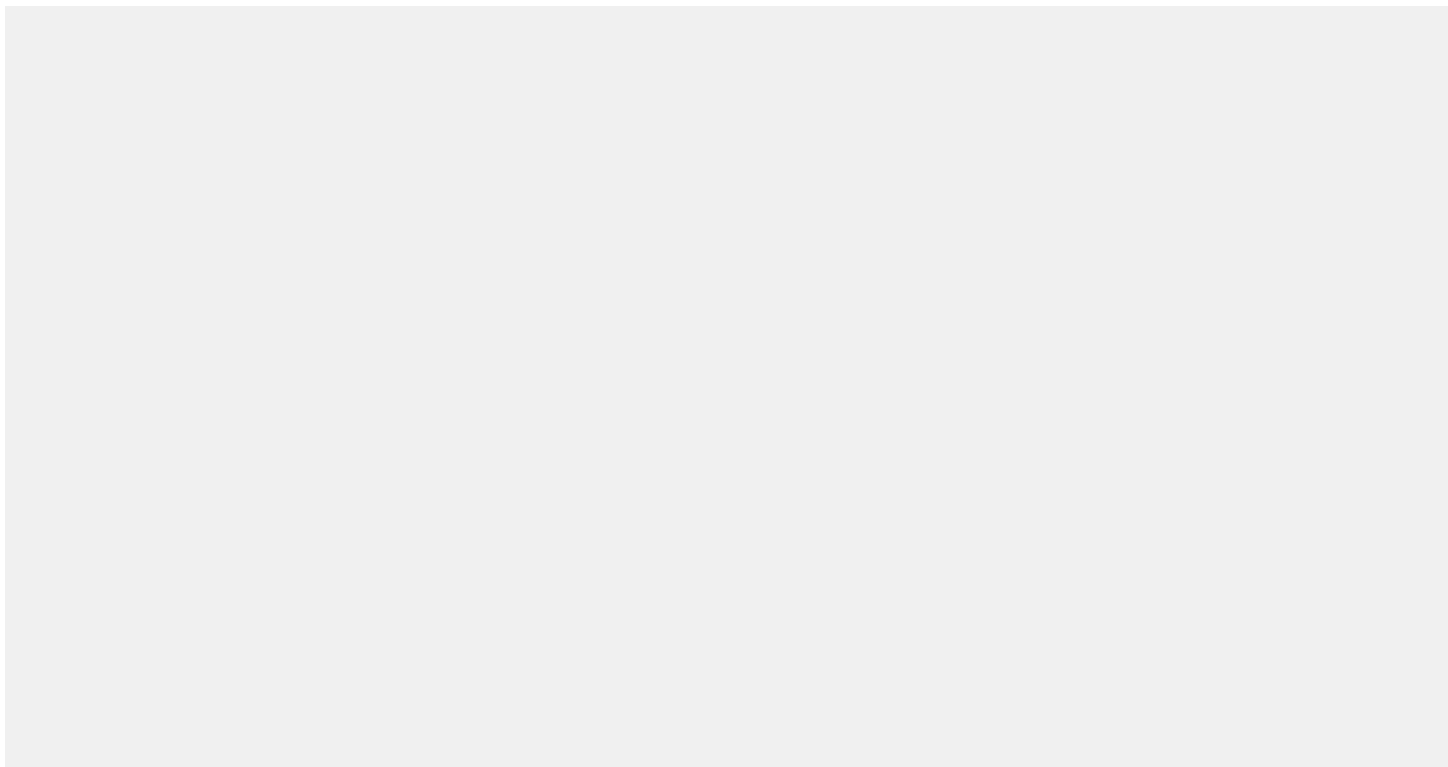






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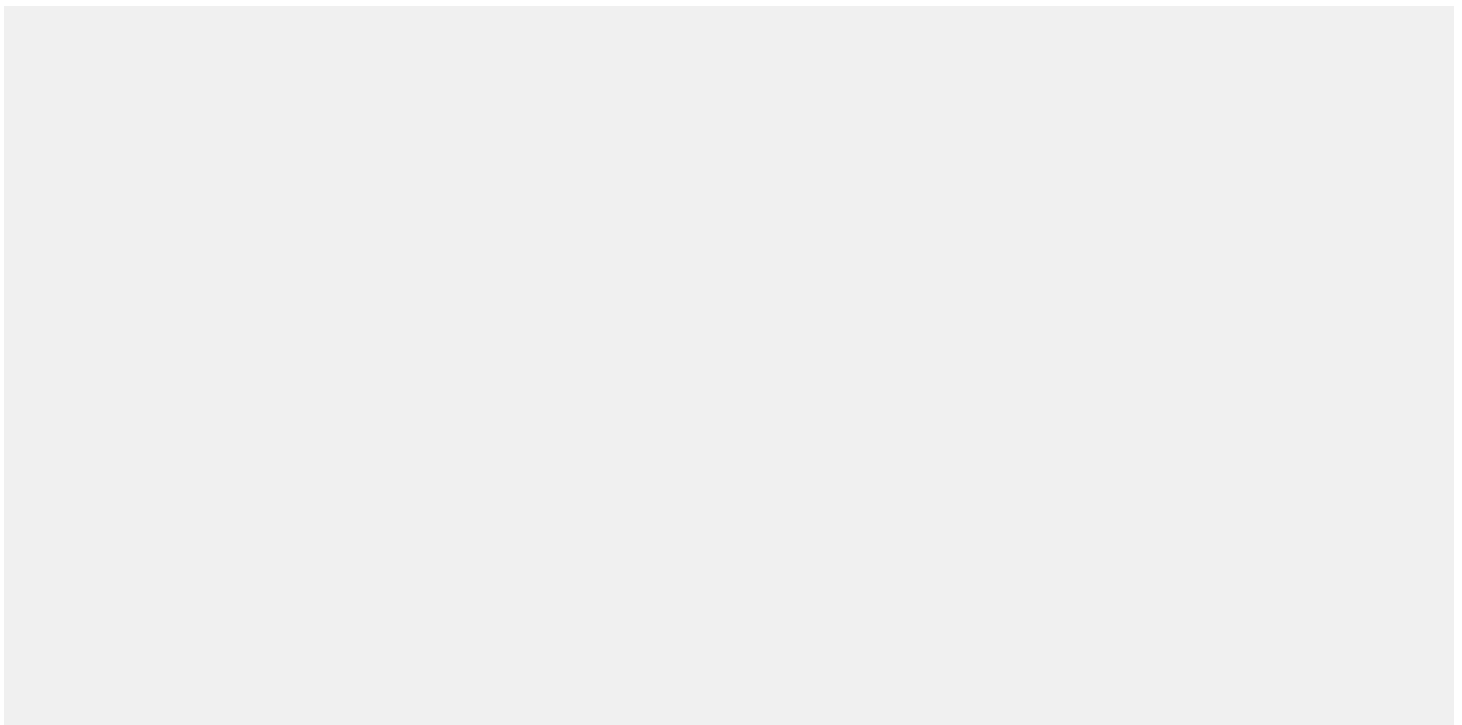






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CORRIE MCKEAGUE

Missing RAF serviceman Corrie McKeague 'was known to sleep in rubbish after night out' as landfill search is called off





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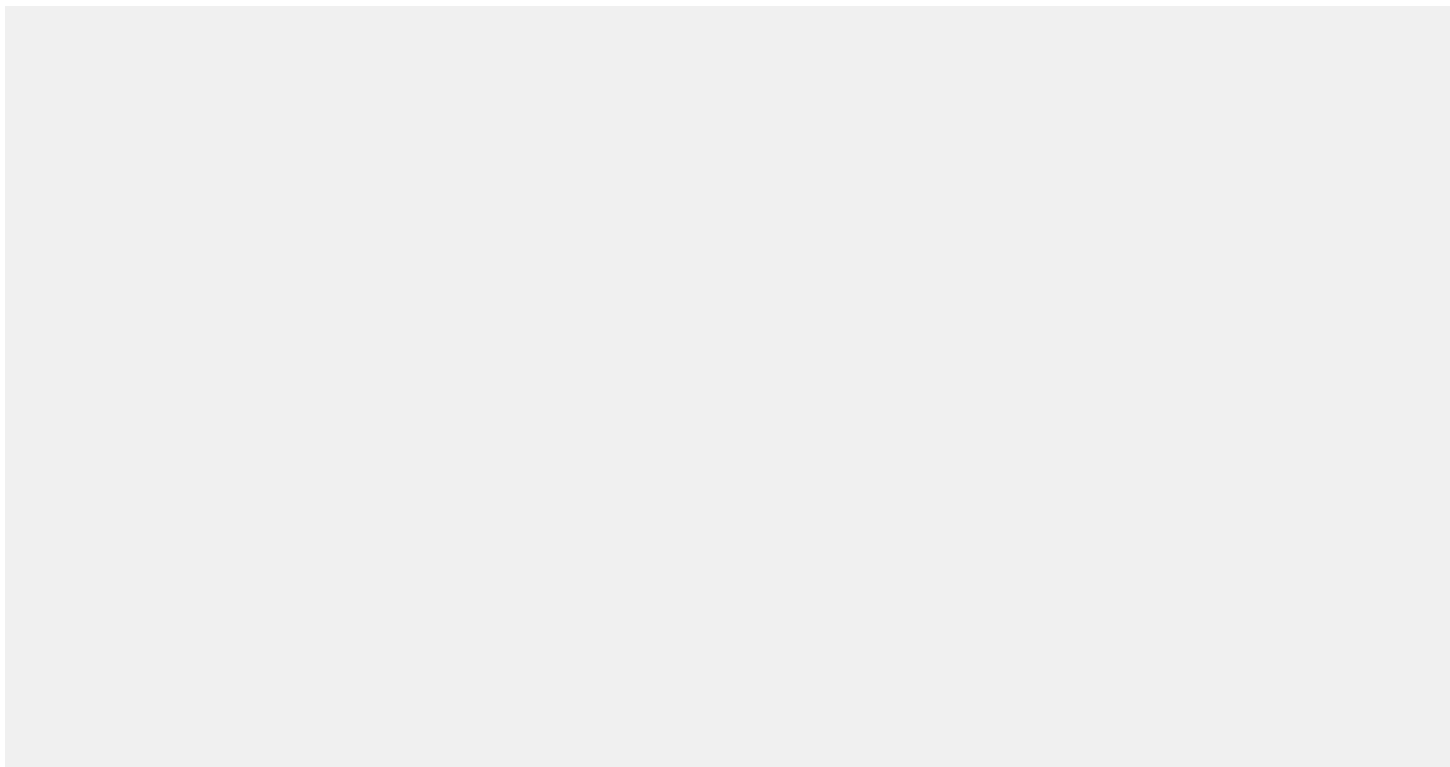
Sean Spicer quits as Donald Trump's White House press secretary





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**Mum-of-two reveals 'trauma' of three-year-old daughter catching her having sex with her boyfriend**





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