

Andrea Jenkyns  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State  
Department for Education  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

11 July 2022

Dear Ms Jenkyns,

We are writing to express our grave concern at the footage of you making an obscene gesture to crowds outside Downing Street last week.

We have since read your public explanation.

As representatives of the teachers, leaders and support staff who run our nation's schools and colleges, we are deeply aware of just how important professional conduct, ethical standards and appropriate behaviour are for our children and young people.

We note your comment that you were responding to a "baying mob", plus your justification that "I should have shown more composure but am only human."

Frankly, explanations such as this from politicians are no longer good enough. As role-models, politicians are increasingly falling short of the standards expected of them. Your words would certainly not be an acceptable excuse from a pupil or member of staff in a school or college.

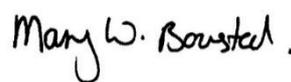
We believe you should publicly acknowledge the impact that your loss of composure is likely to have on the ability of education teams to maintain common decency in schools.

Given legitimate current concerns about the conduct of those in public life, we are making this letter public.

Yours sincerely,



Geoff Barton  
General Secretary ASCL



Dr Mary Bousted  
Joint General Secretary NEU



Kevin Courtney  
Joint General Secretary NEU



Jon Richards  
Assistant General Secretary  
Unison



Paul Whiteman  
General Secretary NAHT