

Embargo: Immediate

North Devon Labour calls for Tory MP's resignation after social media tirade suggesting struggling businesses who help feed vulnerable children should not expect to receive further Government support.

In an extraordinary outburst on social media that was reported across the nation, North Devon Conservative MP Selaine Saxby took fire at local businesses who are supporting vulnerable children by offering to provide them with food during the school holidays. In a sarcastic and distasteful post on North Devon News she wrote "I am delighted our local businesses have bounced back so much after lockdown they are able to give away food for free." She continued "[I] very much hope they will not be seeking any further government support."

The row blew up following Ms Saxby's refusal to vote in favour of the motion tabled by Labour in Parliament last week that would see free school meals provided to the most vulnerable children during the school holidays. The need to continue to provide free school meals throughout holiday periods has been widely supported, with the footballer Marcus Rashford running a high-profile campaign to highlight the damage that removing free school meals would do to the most vulnerable children.

North Devon Labour have written to Selaine Saxby calling for her resignation. North Devon Secretary Nick Agnew wrote:

"We find these comments abhorrent and an attack on decent, hardworking people who are doing their best to find a compassionate way through the current crisis and step in to help local people where you and your Government consistently fail. Personal abuse towards elected politicians is totally unacceptable. However, nothing justifies the offensive remarks you offered in response and we can only assume they reflect your feelings towards the businesses who keep our communities and economy alive, and the most vulnerable people living in our towns and villages."

After pointing to her voting record as evidence of her failure to work in the interests of her constituents, the letter concluded "As a result of your abhorrent comments this week, you have demonstrated without any doubt your contempt for your constituents. You have demonstrated a level of incompetence that has been reported across the entire nation. It is for these reasons that North Devon Labour feels there is no other option than to call for your resignation."

North Devon Labour's call for Selaine Saxby to resign joins over 1350 individuals who have signed a petition calling for the MP to step down. (See petition [here](#))

North Devon Labour has publicly expressed its gratitude for those businesses who immediately came forward to provide food for children.

END