

Appendix K

CONSERVATIVE PARTY SUSPENSION OF NOMINATED CANDIDATES, 2026 ELECTION

Background

The suspension of a nominated candidate by a political party, in the period between close of nominations and polling day, is a relatively rare occurrence. Political parties tend to have rigorous vetting procedures before applicants are placed on lists of approved candidates, as they wish to avoid their organisations being brought into disrepute during an election campaign.

Prior to the 2026 elections, suspension had occurred only once (to the editor's knowledge) in Harrow's electoral history in **Canons** ward in 2014. Shortly after the close of nominations **Yogalingam Dayanamby's** membership of the Labour Party was suspended after it was discovered he had failed to disclose, before his selection as a candidate, a conviction dating back to June 2007. (He had been sentenced to a three-month curfew order for falsely claiming nearly £812 Council Tax Benefit.) The nature of the conviction and the lack of candour from Dayanamby during the vetting and selection processes led Labour to believe he had brought the party into disrepute.

Due to electoral law, Dayanamby's suspension could not prevent his continued candidature nor his ballot paper description remaining 'Labour Party Candidate'. It is plausible that many of the votes for him at the election were cast by electors unaware of his suspension – particularly those voting by post in advance of polling day. Additionally, it should be noted that the timing of a suspension is pertinent: if it occurs only a few days before an election, the news of it may not have spread sufficiently to influence the election result or the suspended candidate's vote tally.

The 2026 Election

Unusually, two nominated candidates from the Conservative Party in Harrow were suspended during this election following investigations by *Byline Times*, a British alternative media website and newspaper launched in 2019 that specialises in current affairs and politics. *Byline Times* claims to report "What the Papers Don't Say".

In an article dated 13 April 2026 by Political and Online Editor Adam Bienkov, it was revealed that the Conservative Party had suspended **William Jackson**, one of its candidates for **North Harrow** ward. He (@wjackson_HWCA) was found to be responsible for a series of "vile replies" to messages posted on the "X" social media platform over the preceding months, including:

- Multiple posts telling Apsana Begum MP to "go back to Bangladesh." She was born in London.
- Posts telling Adnan Hussain MP (born in Lancashire) that "we need to bully you back to Pakistan."
- Calling for Zarah Sultana MP, who was born in Birmingham, to be deported and telling her to "go back to Pakistan."
- Posts telling Labour MPs Jeevun Sandher (Loughborough) and Imran Hussain (Bradford East) that they were not British. (Sandher was born in Luton and Hussain in Bradford.)
- A comment to an image of a voter communication in Urdu sent by Tower Hamlets Council in London: "photocopy and give to your 700 cousins that live in a two-bedroom flat."
- Posts suggesting that boxer Anthony Joshua and singer-songwriter Dua Lipa are not British.

Bienkov concluded the article by quoting a Conservative spokesperson who provided news of Jackson's suspension: "These apparent comments are wholly unacceptable, and this individual has been suspended from the Conservative Party pending an investigation. Whilst this process is rightfully confidential, the Party has withdrawn support from their campaign with immediate effect." Despite the publicity surrounding his candidature, Jackson was elected to Harrow Council. Immediately after the election his suspended position was confirmed on the council's website by its description of him as an Independent.

On 20 April a further article appeared in *Byline Times*. Authored by Adam Bienkov, its headline was "Conservatives Stand Tommy Robinson-Supporting Candidate Who Called Boris Johnson a 'Traitorous Scumbag'." This was about **Nathan Smith**, a nominated candidate in **West Harrow** ward. Smith's social media posts (as @NathanSmithHW) revealed a number of astonishing views for someone seeking to be a councillor for a mainstream political party. Bienkov cited the following examples:

- Calling former Conservative Prime Minister Boris Johnson a “traitorous scumbag” who will be “jailed the second we take power.”
- Backing far-right activist Tommy Robinson after a video emerged of the aftermath of an incident at St Pancras station, following an alleged assault by Robinson. Smith commented: “Good on Tommy. No doubt this w***r deserved it.”
- Indicating support for a rival party’s leader, namely Rupert Lowe MP of Restore Britain (a far-right political party in the UK), as “the only MP fighting for us.”
- Posting that Afghans living in the UK should face “mass deportation.”

The Conservative Party was contacted by Bienkov for comment about Smith’s social media activity, but none was immediately forthcoming. Short articles by Grant Williams in *Byline Times* and *The Standard* dated 6 May (the day before the election) made it clear that Smith had indeed been suspended whilst his actions were investigated. No date for the introduction of the suspension was mentioned. Smith failed to be elected to Harrow Council.