

Councillor Sarah Gibson
Chippenham Constituency Liberal Democrats
17 St. Mary's Place,
Chippenham
SN15 1EN.

Michelle Donelan MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Michelle,

Normally it would be a matter of pride for a local representative to achieve high office. However, in these circumstances that is not the case.

By accepting the offer of joining the Cabinet, you are clearly backing Boris Johnson at a time when the country, our communities and residents need him gone.

You would do well to reflect on the words used by your senior colleagues who have made the opposite decision. In their resignation letters, they rightly say that the public expect their Government to act with "competence" and "purpose". This Government has neither. Referring directly to the leader of the Government, our Prime Minister, they say a leader should act with "integrity" and "honesty". Growing numbers who, like you, have worked closely with him say he has neither.

Last month, the voters of Tiverton and Honiton had their opportunity to judge this Prime Minister and his Government. They turned away from the Conservatives in historic, record-breaking numbers to elect my colleague, Richard Foord as their first ever Lib Dem MP.

The truth is that our country desperately wants an end to the sleaze, lies, law breaking, incompetence and sheer indifference of Boris Johnson and this Conservative Government. People are sick and tired of being taken for granted and treated as fools.

They want real leadership. Elected leaders that listen, care, and respond practically and positively to their needs. Effective action to tackle the cost of living crisis, meet the huge challenges facing our NHS and respond urgently to the massive threat posed to us all by the climate emergency. I and the Liberal Democrats offer that leadership that the residents of Chippenham, Bradford on Avon, Corsham, Melksham, our farms and villages so desperately need.

You have made your choice. I doubt that it will be forgotten or forgiven. I now look forward to local residents getting the opportunity to make theirs at the next General Election. That choice is very stark and clear. It is one between your and the Conservatives record and the positive alternative that I, and the Liberal Democrats, offer. For the sake of our country, communities, and local people's futures, the sooner that election comes the better. I look forward to it.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Gibson', followed by a period.

Councillor Sarah Gibson
Prospective Liberal Democrat MP for the Chippenham Constituency