

# Pressure mounts on Watson to return Mosley's £500,000

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Tom Watson is under growing pressure to return £500,000 to Max Mosley after Jeremy Corbyn banned his deputy from taking any more money from the press reform campaigner.

It emerged this week that Mr Mosley, a former Formula One boss, had his name listed as publisher of a racist campaign leaflet linking leprosy, venereal disease and tuberculosis to "coloured immigration" and calling for Jamaicans to be sent home.

The leaflet, published in 1961, was in support of a candidate for his fascist father Sir Oswald Mosley's Union Movement in a by-election.

Mr Mosley had been questioned about the leaflet under oath during a High Court privacy case against the *News of the World* in 2008, telling the court that he did not recall putting out election literature urging voters to send black people home. He also explicitly denied that any leaflets from the 1961 campaign accused immigrants of bringing leprosy, syphilis and TB, saying: "That is absolute nonsense."

This week, after the leaflet emerged, he told Channel 4 News he rejected the "offensive suggestion" that he lied under oath, adding: "If it is genuine, it doesn't reflect my views today. This was in 1961. I ceased to have any involvement in my father's movement in 1963."

Mr Mosley, 77, who has campaigned for press reform since he successfully sued the *News of the World* in 2008, is the main financial backer of Mr Watson, Labour's deputy leader, who also favours state regulation of the press. After the leaflet emerged, Mr Watson said: "My views on press regulation are well known and have not changed. The views expressed by Max as a young man are not the views he holds now."

Yesterday a spokesman for Mr Corbyn attacked the views in the leaflet as "utterly repugnant" and vowed that neither Mr Watson nor the Labour Party would take any more of Mr Mosley's donations.

During his successful campaign for the deputy leadership in 2015, Mr Wat-

## Racism row upsets voters

Neil Johnston

Tom Watson was facing a backlash from voters in his constituency yesterday over his continued support for Max Mosley.

The deputy Labour leader has accepted more than £500,000 in donations from the former Formula One boss and many constituents in West Bromwich East, where he has been the MP since 2001, said that they were unhappy about it. Mr Mosley is alleged to have published a racist campaign pamphlet in the 1960s.

About 30 per cent of Mr Watson's constituents are from ethnic minorities and the area has significant Indian, Bangladeshi and Pakistani populations. Daljit Singh, general secretary at the local Sikh Gurdwara, said that Mr Watson should hand back the money since it was taken from someone who is alleged to have been racist. "This is not good at all, not for anyone or for any community. Not for Sikhs or any other religion."

On the town's high street, Sunny Kumar, 47, a sales assistant, said: "It's wrong, he has to give it back."

son, the MP for West Bromwich East, was given more than £400,000 by Mr Mosley, the largest sum from any donor except Unite, the trade union, and 13 per cent of the total campaign funds. Since Mr Watson became deputy leader, Mr Mosley has given him £500,000; £200,000 in June 2016 and £300,000 in February last year, "to support my office as deputy leader and shadow secretary of state for digital, culture, media and sport". Mr Mosley was willing to give far more to Labour under Ed Miliband, *The*

Tom Watson was given funds "to support his office"



*Times* understands. When Mr Watson was deputy chairman of the Labour Party and Mr Miliband's elections coordinator from 2011 to 2013, Mr Watson told Mr Miliband that Mr Mosley was willing to give £5 million to the party. The offer, which was not accepted, came when Mr Watson and Mr Mosley were vocal critics of newspapers' behaviour over phone hacking.

Mr Watson quit the post after a row over a Labour Party selection in Falkirk. Last night the Labour deputy declined to comment about the prospective donation. Mr Mosley did not respond to a request for comment.

Mr Mosley was at the centre of a Labour donations row in 1997 when he was president of Formula One's governing body. Tony Blair decided to exempt the sport from Labour's ban on tobacco advertising, but it emerged that his party had accepted £1 million from Bernie Ecclestone, the motor racing chief. Mr Mosley had hosted Mr Blair at Silverstone when he was opposition leader and met him again at Downing Street to lobby against the tobacco ban.

"The Labour Party has moved away from large-scale donations from wealthy individuals," Mr Corbyn's spokesman said yesterday. "I don't believe that there will be any more payments from Max Mosley to the Labour Party or Tom Watson. The last payments were made last year."

The spokesman insisted the decision not to take more money from Mr Mosley was taken before the document came to light, and that all large donations were being assessed over whether they are "ethical or appropriate".

The Conservative Party called for Mr Watson to return the £500,000 he has received since 2016. James Cleverly, the party's deputy chairman, said that Mr Watson "must avoid the impression of an unhealthy connection between Labour's position on press freedom and a wealthy donor who may find himself embarrassed by reporting on his past actions." A Downing Street source said that the 1961 leaflet was "vile".

Asked about Mr Mosley's funding of Impress, the state-recognised press regulator, Theresa May said that the freedom of the press "will never change" while she is prime minister. David Aaronovitch, page 29  
Leading article, page 33  
Deborah Ross, Times2, page 2



Max Mosley, right, and his brother Alex, with supporters of their father, disrupted



a Tory rally in Islington in 1958; top, Max, aged 18 with Alex during the 1958 Notting Hill riots; Max with Sir Oswald in 1962

## Privacy champion's far-right party kept dossiers on enemies

### The values Max Mosley now promotes contrast sharply with his father's movement, writes Dominic Kennedy

In 1962 a young Max Mosley put his arm around the shoulder of a new recruit to his father's fascist party, unaware that the man was an undercover reporter.

The journalist had arranged a rendezvous at Sir Oswald Mosley's grand apartment and wanted to tell Mr Mosley how disgusted he felt by the antisemitism and racialism he found in the former Blackshirt leader's new party.

An embarrassed Mr Mosley explained: "It takes all kinds to make a political movement. We need these people. In our kind of politics, one needs to be as good at a punch-up as at talking to a university professor."

The story, contained in an article from the now defunct *Daily Herald*, is

dream of using disaffected young men to turn Britain to the far right.

In the 1930s, Sir Oswald's uniformed Blackshirt agitators, inspired by the Nazis, had been prevented by protesters from entering Jewish neighbourhoods of east London in the Battle of Cable Street. In 1940, after war broke out with Hitler, Sir Oswald and Lady Mosley were interned under powers to detain people who had associations with enemy powers.

During the meeting with the *Daily Herald* reporter, Mr Mosley earnestly asked the journalist to compile a list of extremists in his father's party: "If they won't listen to a warning, they must go. I would like you to discuss this with Dad."

The reporter wrote: "Were the Mosleys really unaware of what was going on in the rank and file of their own movement?"

His newspaper investigation made a sinister discovery: a list kept under lock and key at party headquarters containing the names of communists, Jews and other antagonists against the party. The list, which went back years, was reported to comprise anti-fascists who had disrupted meetings and been brought through the courts. Party members had taken photographs of them.

A stalwart of the movement told the reporter: "These files will come in very handy when the time comes — we know our enemies."

Mr Mosley, now 77, is trying to use the Data Protection Act, which was designed to prevent the compilation of secret files, to force newspapers including *The Times* to stop publishing

widely reported details about his sexual life.

The *Daily Mail* reported yesterday that Mr Mosley published leaflets in a by-election in 1961 which blamed black immigrants for leprosy, venereal disease and tuberculosis, and called for Jamaicans to be repatriated.

The evidence implies that the former president of Formula One's governing body may have lied to the High Court in a privacy action against the *News of the World* in 2008 when he was questioned under oath about whether he had produced such leaflets. He denied the allegation as "absolute nonsense".

Defending himself on Tuesday in a confrontational interview with Cathy Newman on *Channel 4 News*, he said: "I've never been a racist, never will be a racist."

However, during that 1961 by-election in Moss Side, Manchester, Mr Mosley, who served as election agent, espoused a blatantly racist reform. The Union Movement, he said, was in favour of immigration control based on colour and would take no action against Irish or European workers who wanted to work in Britain.

The former student at Christ Church, Oxford, would have been good at talking to university professors, but what about the punch-ups he considered necessary to a movement such as his? He did indeed become embroiled in a number of violent confrontations between his early 1960s street movement and anti-fascists but he claimed that he was acting in self-defence.

According to the *Daily Mail*, he was arrested after swinging a punch at a "Jewbaiting" fascist rally in a Jewish quarter of London but insisted in court that he could not be described as a fighting person.

However, in a statement in 1963, Sir Oswald proudly boasted: "My son, Max, has been a member of the Territorial Army Parachute Brigade for a long time."

## Media companies may quit regulator

Matthew Moore Media Correspondent

The state-recognised press regulator bankrolled by money from a Mosley family trust is facing a crisis as members consider cutting ties over the racist leaflets scandal.

Impress relies for day-to-day funding on an agreement to receive £3 million from a charity backed by a trust set up in the name of Max Mosley's son.

It was granted state recognition in 2016 but is responsible for only a few dozen small publications and websites.

Most national and local newspapers joined a rival regulator, the Independent Press Standards Organisation (Ipsos), out of principled objection to state involvement in press regulation.

A local publisher regulated by Impress announced yesterday that it was reviewing its relationship with the body over the allegations against Mr Mosley.

Martin Booth, the editor of *Bristol 24/7*, an entertainment magazine, said: "The discovery of the electoral material from 1961 and Mosley's subsequent denial under oath of its existence make me uncomfortable to belong to the regulatory body that he bankrolls. Mosley's involvement with Impress is vague and I am considering whether *Bristol 24/7* should continue being a member."

Other publishers are understood to be considering their options. The organisation is under pressure to follow the Labour Party and refuse to accept further funding from the Mosley family.

The regulator declined to discuss its funding plans last night. A spokeswoman said: "Impress is entirely independent of the publishers we regulate

## Police assess 1961 leaflet for perjury

Matthew Moore

Police were last night assessing a dossier of evidence related to Max Mosley amid calls for him to be investigated for perjury.

News Group Newspapers, the former owner of the *News of the World*, said it had instructed lawyers to "consider the impact" of the revelations. Mr Mosley won £60,000 privacy damages from the tabloid in 2008 for publishing footage of his orgy with prostitutes. The judge ruled that it did not involve Nazi role play, as the paper claimed.

During the High Court case, Mr Mosley dismissed claims that he distributed a by-election leaflet accusing immigrants of bringing leprosy, syphilis and TB into the country. This week the *Daily Mail* unearthed a copy of the 1961 leaflet, published in Mr Mosley's name, making a specific link between the diseases and "coloured immigration".

The crime of perjury — making false statements under oath — carries a maximum punishment of seven years in prison. The false statement must be made deliberately, not inadvertently or by mistake. Mr Mosley has strongly denied perjury, insisting he did not say anything he knew to be untrue.

News Group Newspapers is owned by News UK, publisher of *The Times*. Imperial College London declined to comment.

## Family trust gave to Oxford and drug centre

Henry Zeffman

An Oxford college and a drugs research centre have received significant donations from Max Mosley's family trust.

The fund is primarily made up of money inherited by Mr Mosley's father, Sir Oswald Mosley, the leader of the British Union of Fascists. In the last financial year, the Alexander Mosley Charitable Trust, set up by Mr Mosley in memory of his son, who died of a drug overdose aged 39 in 2009, gave more than £1.1 million to St Peter's College, Oxford, where Alexander studied.

The fund has also donated to the centre for neuropsychopharmacology at Imperial College London. The centre is led by David Nutt, who was sacked as a drugs adviser to the government in 2009 for opposing reclassifying cannabis from a Class C to a Class B drug.

Impress, the state-recognised press regulator, has an agreement to receive more than £3 million over four years from a charity backed by the trust.

Mark Damazer, master of St Peter's College, said it was "grateful" for the donation. "We review all large donations with the assistance of the university's committee to review donations and will continue to do so," he said.

### Behind the story

Max Mosley inherited his fortune from his father, Sir Oswald, the 6th Baronet of Ancoats (Dominic Kennedy writes).

The family has been wealthy for half a millennium and can trace its success back to Nicholas Mosley, a landowner and international trader in cloth and silks who became mayor of Manchester and was knighted by Elizabeth I. He was high sheriff to James I. Sir Oswald could have enjoyed a life of idle luxury but instead became committed to political causes, being elected a Labour MP then founding the New Party and launching the British Union of Fascists.

emerged as a player in business when he co-founded March Engineering as a motor racing team in Bicester, Oxfordshire, in 1969.

In a privacy battle with the *News of the World* over its report on his sado-masochistic orgy, it emerged that he had spent £75,000 in a year on his sexual interest.

The state-approved newspaper regulator Impress was funded with £3.8 million through a charity backed by the Alexander Mosley Charitable Trust. The family trust was named after Mr Mosley's son, who died of a drug overdose aged 39 in 2009. Most national newspapers have declined to join Impress,

fearing a threat to press freedom, and instead have signed up to the Independent Press Standards Organisation. Mr Mosley admitted in an interview with Andrew Neil that the money used to fund the regulator was inherited from his father as part of the family's long-standing wealth. "The whole of the middle of Manchester once belonged to the family," he said, repeatedly pointing out that there is a Mosley Street in the city to this day.

Neil suggested: "People will find it ironic that money being used to regulate the British press has come from Britain's historically best-known fascist." Mr Mosley responded: "It hasn't. It comes from a family that goes back to the 18th, 17th century."



Max Mosley has devoted much of his life to motor racing