

Dear member,

The letter below from Irene Blundell to Gordon Brown strongly criticises him for his attack on Boris Johnson in the context of Brexit and the prorogation, the collusion of his Government with the European Commission in the destruction of B&B and urges him to support an inquiry. She also reminds him of her claim against him for £184.25, her loss in the rights issue.

Please can BBAG supporters send the letter to their MP, you can download a copy [here](#).

The Right Honourable
Gordon Brown
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12 September 2019

Dear Mr. Brown,

BREXIT: Your flawed criticism of Boris Johnson's Prorogation of Parliament

I apologise in advance for the tone of some of this letter but I feel very strongly about the issues raised and have just about reached the end of my patience and my good manners.

I am a member, and my husband David Blundell the chairman, of the Bradford & Bingley Action Group (BBAG), representing nearly one million B&B employees, share and bond holders who still do not know why their company was unnecessarily destroyed by you and the European Commission in 2008. Consequently, I have considerable experience of the industrial scale obfuscation, misinformation and subterfuge to which your Government resorted when it wished to suppress the truth in the politically sensitive period between 2008 and the General Election in May 2010.

Now amidst all the noise and indignation surrounding Boris Johnson's prorogation of Parliament, your reported comment at a meeting of the 'Our Scottish Future' think tank highlights your double standards and those of the Political Establishment. You criticized the

suspension of Parliament and accused Mr Johnson of “tearing the country apart” with no plan to bring the country together again, adding that leadership is about healing divisions and not accentuating them.

May we turn to events over a decade ago. On the 1 October 2008 in a letter to David Miliband, former Foreign Secretary (2007-10), the European Commission colluded with your Government in the destruction of Bradford & Bingley (B&B) by the post-event authorization of £22 billion of State aid made available to Spanish bank Santander, whilst simultaneously Her Majesty’s Treasury (HMT) agreed to a fire sale of the B&B £21bn Deposit book, 337 retail/agency outlets & Isle of Man international operation to Santander for about £400 million (net), when the true market value was around £1bn.

Arguably, you were able to do this because the UK does not have a written constitution. In my view if we had a constitution similar to the United States of America, you would not have been able to destroy B&B in the way that you did and B&B shareholders would have received the fair compensation to which they are still entitled.

B&B was a solvent, highly regarded bank based in Yorkshire and with a far stronger balance sheet than Royal Bank of Scotland and Halifax Bank of Scotland, which received over £60bn of State aid at the same time that your Government destroyed B&B. After eleven years and despite numerous Freedom of Information (Fol) requests to you, Mr Darling and successive Governments thereafter, B&B shareholders still do not know why Santander, RBS and HBOS were supported so generously whilst their company was destroyed.

Many of our supporters feel it is no coincidence that the two Scottish banks are major employers in the central belt of Scotland, which was once the power base of the Scottish Labour party. They also believe the fire sale of B&B’s Deposit book et al, was an inducement to the Commission to ensure it would authorise post-event notification of State aid and mitigate the unlawful financial assistance and EC Treaty breach by your Government.

It is little wonder that you support the current unwritten constitution, a mix of Common law and precedent, as it was this that enabled your Government - by a mix of obfuscation, subterfuge and untrue statements by Ministers in the House of Commons - to unnecessarily destroy B&B. An independent inquiry into the B&B debacle is long overdue.

In my view your single-minded ambition highlighted by your attempts to undermine the Prime Minister Mr Blair when you were Chancellor and your total failure to support growth with sound money, resulting in the appalling financial mess from which we all still suffer, is a matter of record. It is you and others of your ilk that laid the foundations for the current political crisis. Arguably you are and always have been a shining example of the increasing dishonesty of the current political establishment, some of which is rotten to the core, and it ill behoves you to lecture others on Britain being broken into pieces by competing nationalisms and the need to heal divisions.

As you know I have recently submitted a claim against you for £184.25 at Leeds small claims court, being my loss on the B&B rights issue approved by the Financial Services Authority and completed in August 2008 only seven weeks before you and the Commission needlessly destroyed B&B. The claim is in the tort of misfeasance in public office as I believe the

decision to destroy B&B was capricious, unreasonable, served your own interests and recklessly damaged the victims of your decision.

The only saving grace from the current political shambles is that you have reminded us of the importance of behaving properly within the rules – both written and unwritten. If only you had taken your own advice all those years ago, many more people would have been looking forward to a comfortable and secure retirement and my husband and I would not have wasted so much time, recounting the ills and deceits of the political establishment. It is not too late to help make amends by supporting a public inquiry into the entire sequence of events. I urge you to have the courage and public-spirited quality to do so.

Yours Sincerely

Irene Blundell

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