

Bad Language?

This letter appeared in The Guardian newspaper, 17th August, 2011.

Presumably my comments on the sentencing of rioters, and further action against those who destroy people's lives and property, were not what the Guardian was looking for when it phoned Liberal Democrat MPs. Wednesday's report seemed to reflect the agenda which your newspaper had set. For the record, I said that those who rioted are a***** and that when it comes to sentencing them I am probably to the right of many Conservatives. However, I said that subsequent punitive financial action could well prove to be counterproductive to society. I also said that making children homeless was not acceptable either.

The notion that Liberal Democrats are somehow sympathetic to rioters is not one which I subscribe to.

Bob Russell MP
Lib Dem, Colchester



I was horrified to read a Member of Parliament using such offensive language, so I wrote to him, and the Guardian, to express my concerns.

Dear Mr Russell and Guardian Readers' letters editor,

I was shocked to read your letter in The Guardian newspaper on 17th August, 2011.

The use of such a vile and offensive term to describe your fellow human beings, whatever wrongs they may have committed, is disgusting, disgraceful and above all, shows a total lack of professional skill.

My reaction was that you would know all about such a description since you and your fellow Lib Dem MPs have betrayed the people who voted for you and reneged on so many of the promises and commitments you made during the last election, all in exchange for some desperate satisfaction of political power in office. In fact, you and your fellow Lib Dems are propping up a minority government which is enacting policies for which there is no electoral mandate.

This is neither Liberal nor Democratic.

I devoutly hope that at the next election, and the sooner the better, the voters will see you for what you are - unprincipled and opportunistic politicians without an ounce of integrity or truthfulness.

Yours sincerely,

Prebendary Neil Richardson

Do readers of Magna have a view on such matters? Let us know!