



THE WHIPS' CHARTER

Mission Statement:

The aim of the Office is to sustain the Government and promote the personal success and development of each Conservative Member in a caring environment

1. Whips (or "Carers") should wear name badges which will include familiar or popular names, eg Mr Nasty, Mr Smooth, The Smiler, The Persuader, The Ineffectual, The Terminator etc
2. Threats or intimidation must not be used, except in the following circumstances:
 - (a) On a three-line whip
 - (b) When the Member concerned has missed a division within the previous year
 - (c) When reason alone appears insufficient
3. Whips should always be sympathetic to a Member's personal circumstances, particularly at a time of bereavement or loss, eg on the death of a husband or wife the Member should generally be slipped for the whole day of the funeral if on a two line whip. (Note: an exception is if the Member and dead spouse were both MPs in which case only the deceased Member may be excused)

4. If a Member dies in the Palace of Westminster the following should be informed, in order:
 - a) The Pairing Whip (who may make the decision on whether to 'nod through' the Member for a number of days*)
 - (b) Central Office
 - (c) The Accommodation Whip
 - (d) Next of Kin

* if so delete (d)

5. Telephone calls to Members at home should be avoided between the hours of 2am and 6am, except on weekdays or in exceptional circumstances. Whips should be as helpful as possible to wives seeking to trace their husbands when they cannot be found in the House. Additional London telephone numbers which a Member may have given to the Office should not be disclosed, except to:
 - (a) His wife
 - (b) The Police
 - (c) The Press

6. Whips should endeavour to arrange the business of the House in the spirit of the "Jopling Proposals" even in advance of a resolution of the House – ie the Government should get its business by an early hour, normally without debate and backbenchers should confine their activities to voting, except on Fridays when long speeches in support of Government policy are appropriate.

The views of Parliamentary Private Secretaries may sometimes be sought. In return PPSs must always abide by the words spoken by Sir Carol Mather:

"We must endeavour to inculcate that instinctive reaction to the word of command which is the foundation of all good discipline".

8. Whips Office relations with the media, photo opportunities, interview requests, video rights, etc. will be handled exclusively by Trappist Vows Ltd (prop. R Ryder).

Encounters with lobby journalists take place outside the terms of the Whips Charter.

9. Any dispute about the scope or terms of the Whips Charter will be dealt with.