

If there's a need for an investigation into a bank's ch...

Published: January 19, 2026, 9:48 pm

The [Guardian has reported:](#)

David Cameron has raised the prospect of an inquiry into the Co-op Bank over its financial struggles and embarrassing revelations about its former chairman the Rev Paul Flowers.

The prime minister described Flowers as the "man who has broken a bank" following questions about his financial competence, drug-taking and resignation as a Bradford councillor over adult material on his computer.

I find this quite extraordinary. Paul Flowers has clearly failed in his job, in the expectation of him as a Methodist minister and as a councillor. All are a personal tragedy and it is clear an inappropriate person appears to have been appointed the chair of a bank - which is also a failure by the FSA.

But does this require an enquiry? I doubt it, very much. This has a great deal of similarity to the seemingly [related demand for an investigation into union campaigning](#) - which once more seems to be a massive exercise in misuse of government funding for party political purposes.

There are enquiries we do need. For example, [how is it that HSBC still has a banking licence despite paying almost \\$2 billion in fines for money laundering?](#) And perhaps even more importantly, how [did David Cameron appoint the chair and former chief executive of that bank who was in office when those offences took place to be a member of the House of Lords and a trade minister in his government?](#)

There should also be an enquiry into bank mis-selling. Where's that?

These seem to be issues requiring investigation. Paul Flowers and Unite's campaigning are not.