

Boris Johnson is officially a liar

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For the first time in decades yesterday the Speaker of the House of Commons permitted one member to describe another as a liar without the claim being corrected or a demand for it to be withdrawn being made.

Ian Blackford, leader of the SNP in the Commons, made the suggestion in a speech when introducing a debate on breaches of the sixth commandment of public life as established by the Nolan principles, [published in 1995](#). That principle says:

1.6 Honesty

Holders of public office should be truthful.

This is what Ian Blackford had to say:

<https://youtu.be/ZS0ndvph4fM>

With this on parliamentary record, uncorrected, the suggestion that Boris Johnson is a liar now has perpetual authority, as if the facts had not already supplied it.

But what was notable was that this must have been agreed in advance with the Speaker, and the Speaker decided there were no grounds to intervene. Honesty required that this be said.