

How long for Johnson?

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We know Johnson is going. What we also know is that he is doing so because his party no longer wants him. They'd even prefer Liz Truss to him.

Johnson does, however, continue to squat in Downing Street, planning his last corrupt acts. Amongst these will be his resignation honours list. Those who kept him in office will, no doubt, be rewarded. Some will become legislators for life.

In contrast it seems very unlikely that Johnson will last long in that role. The House of Commons Standards Committee made clear yesterday that they intend to interview Johnson and others under oath to determine whether he misled the House of Commons.

I really do not think many people have any doubt on this issue. He claimed in the Commons that no Covid lockdown rules were ever broken at No.10. Around 120 fixed penalty notices later we know that was untrue. And we know Johnson must have known that was untrue.

My suspicion is that this Committee will not seek to find the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Johnson's actions are far too egregious to do that. Their focus will simply be on 'did he lie?' That simply means they will interrogate him on events where they know they have the evidence to prove that he did. This is sufficient for their purposes.

What happens then? Johnson, if he sees this process through, could be suspended from parliament, face a recall petition in his constituency, and a by-election he would most likely lose, if he stood.

Alternatively, and much more likely, he will resign to spend more time with his family in early September.

But, three thoughts on this, which would only act as an admission of guilt. First, should that end the Committee's work? I hope not. His record should be blemished.

Second, should that end his right to resignation honours? I think so.

Third, should this end his right to enjoy some privileges normally afforded to former prime ministers (of which we now have a lot), such as security briefings? I definitely think so. This man is not to be trusted.

I am expecting Johnson to go now. I just hope he is held to account as well.