

# The collapse of legal government in the UK goes on, by ...

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Boris Johnson's government denied a Labour request for a vote of no confidence in it yesterday.

This matters. A government has to be able to command a majority in the House of Commons. That is a basic rule of our unwritten constitution. And the Opposition does in no small part exist to test whether that is true or not. As such under Erskine May - the 'bible' on these issues - a request for a vote of no confidence has to be accepted, albeit not necessarily on the day demanded. There is also no set formula for these votes, but they must be in the government and not an individual.

It seems as though Labour made a valid request.

The government refused it.

It does not have the right to do that.

So Johnson is now squatting illegally in Number 10, no doubt plotting his January 6 moment.

The collapse of legal government in the UK goes on, by the day.