

There should be no place in the House of Lords for Mark...

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As has been widely reported, Liz Truss is apparently planning to appoint Mark Littlewood of the Institute of Economic Affairs, as well as other far-right libertarian allies, to the House of Lords in her resignation honours list to which she thinks she is entitled following her disastrous seven weeks as prime minister.

I know Mark, a bit. We have done radio together for more than a decade. I spoke at the IEA once, a long time ago, although the BBC arranged it. I know a little bit about him as a result, beyond that which you might pick up from the press.

I have to say that I have seen no evidence, at all, that he would add value to the House of Lords.

He is dedicated to secrecy.

His organisation has published papers promoting tax havens and the abuse they allow.

He quite literally opposes the public interest because he denies it exists. Only the individual matters.

And the economics of the IEA (if it is possible to describe their ethos with that term) is motivated solely by selfishness and contempt for anyone but winners.

Those economics crashed the economy.

It also led to Brexit, which has been a total disaster.

There is no room for another person with such sentiments in the Lords where the requirement is that a person legislates for the benefit of others and not solely for those who might fund them, which is how the IEA has been run.

I have long called Mark Littlewood 'comrade'. I will never call him 'Lord'. I sincerely hope I never have reason to do so.