# Lib Dem MP faces calls for action over inappropriate messages to Ukrainian translator on official visit



A Liberal Democrat MP, Cameron Thomas, is facing serious allegations of misconduct following reports of inappropriate messaging towards a Ukrainian translator during an official visit to Ukraine. The controversy erupted after it was revealed that Thomas, during a trip commemorating the third anniversary of Russia's invasion, sent intimate WhatsApp messages to the translator who was assisting the delegation. Critics within the party have called for disciplinary action, including the possibility of stripping him of the party whip for what has been described as an "abuse of power."

The messages reportedly contained phrases such as "I want you" and expressions of a desire to spend more time together. This behaviour has drawn criticism not only for its inappropriateness but also for the potential exploitation of his position as a Member of Parliament. Observers note that the visit, which included trips to Kyiv and Lviv, was meant to support Ukraine amidst its ongoing conflict; therefore, the actions of Thomas are viewed as particularly disrespectful. One Tory MP lamented the situation, stating, "Given the courage and sacrifice shown by Ukrainians in the fight for their country's existence, it is unthinkable that one of our MPs should be treating an official visit to a warzone in this way."

Additionally, the implications of such actions during sensitive missions raise broader questions about accountability and ethical conduct among elected officials. The backlash intensified following the revelation that Thomas's trip was funded by various organisations, including Kyivstar and the Yalta European Strategy, a forum established by Ukrainian oligarch Victor Pinchuk. Although Thomas has denied any wrongdoing, stating that the messages were private and that he has maintained contact with the translator, the incident has thrown his integrity into doubt.

Beyond this scandal, the geopolitical landscape has been marred by issues of misinformation and manipulation, as illustrated by a recent incident involving UK Foreign Secretary David Cameron. In June 2024, he fell victim to a hoax video call with someone impersonating former Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko. The Foreign Office confirmed that Cameron engaged in text conversations before becoming suspicious when the impersonator requested contact details for other officials. This incident highlights the increasing vulnerability of political figures to deception in an era where disinformation is rising rapidly, often fuelled by advancements in technology.

The Foreign Office's decision to publicise the incident aimed to raise awareness about such manipulation risks and to alert other officials. It underscores the importance of vigilance in diplomatic communications, especially concerning international relations with Ukraine, a nation currently struggling for survival against Russian aggression. Both instances of misconduct raise critical awareness about ethical guidelines and the responsibilities of those in positions of power in sensitive situations, especially during times of conflict.

This unfolding scenario serves as a stark reminder of the ethical responsibilities borne by public officials, particularly when their actions can overshadow critical humanitarian missions intended to lend support to those in need.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14746357/Lib-Dem-abuse-power-texts-translator-Ukraine-visit.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14746357/Lib-Dem-abuse-power-texts-translator-Ukraine-visit.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/politics/article/2024/jun/08/david-cameron-victim-hoax-call-former-ukraine-president)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/foreign-secretary-david-cameron-targeted-hoax-video-call-imposter-ukraine-president-b1162982.html), [[6]](https://www.the-independent.com/news/uk/home-news/david-cameron-hoax-video-call-ukraine-b2559043.html)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14746357/Lib-Dem-abuse-power-texts-translator-Ukraine-visit.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/article/2024/jun/08/david-cameron-victim-hoax-call-former-ukraine-president> - In June 2024, UK Foreign Secretary David Cameron was targeted by a hoax video call from someone impersonating former Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko. The Foreign Office confirmed that Cameron exchanged text messages and had a brief video call with the impersonator. After the caller requested contact details for others, Cameron became suspicious and ceased communication. The incident was made public to prevent potential manipulation of the footage and to raise awareness about such risks. The Foreign Office emphasized the growing threat of misinformation and disinformation, especially with advancing AI technology.
3. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/foreign-secretary-david-cameron-targeted-hoax-video-call-imposter-ukraine-president-b1162982.html> - In June 2024, UK Foreign Secretary David Cameron was deceived by a hoax video call from an individual posing as former Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko. The Foreign Office reported that Cameron engaged in text exchanges and a brief video call with the impersonator. Upon the caller's request for additional contact details, Cameron grew suspicious and ended the interaction. The government disclosed the incident to prevent potential misuse of the footage and to alert others to similar risks. The Foreign Office highlighted the increasing prevalence of misinformation and disinformation, particularly with the rise of AI technologies.
4. <https://www.breitbart.com/europe/2024/06/08/david-cameron-duped-into-prank-call-with-imposter-ex-ukraine-president-uk-admits/> - In June 2024, UK Foreign Secretary David Cameron was tricked into a prank phone call by someone impersonating former Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko. The UK Foreign Office confirmed that Cameron exchanged text messages and had a brief video call with the hoaxer. After the caller requested contact details for other senior British ministers, Cameron became suspicious and ended the call. The government made the incident public to prevent potential manipulation of the footage and to raise awareness about such risks. The Foreign Office emphasized the growing threat of misinformation and disinformation, especially with advancing AI technology.
5. <https://www.firstpost.com/world/david-cameron-tricked-by-hoax-caller-posing-as-former-ukrainian-president-13780176.html> - In June 2024, UK Foreign Secretary David Cameron fell victim to a hoax involving a fake video call and text messages from someone impersonating former Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko. The Foreign Office disclosed the incident to prevent potential manipulation of the footage and to alert others to similar risks. The government emphasized the increasing prevalence of misinformation and disinformation, particularly with the rise of AI technologies. Cameron is not the first British foreign minister to be caught out by a hoax; previous incidents include a 2018 prank call with a hoax caller pretending to be the Armenian prime minister and 2022 hoax calls to two ministers, attributed to Russia.
6. <https://www.the-independent.com/news/uk/home-news/david-cameron-hoax-video-call-ukraine-b2559043.html> - In June 2024, UK Foreign Secretary David Cameron was targeted by a hoax video call and messages from someone claiming to be former Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko. The Foreign Office confirmed that Cameron exchanged text messages and had a brief video call with the impersonator. After the caller requested contact details for others, Cameron became suspicious and ceased communication. The government made the incident public to prevent potential manipulation of the footage and to raise awareness about such risks. The Foreign Office highlighted the growing threat of misinformation and disinformation, especially with advancing AI technology.
7. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/06/07/david-cameron-hoax-call-ukraine-president/> - In June 2024, UK Foreign Secretary David Cameron was deceived by a hoax video call from someone impersonating former Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko. The Foreign Office reported that Cameron exchanged text messages and had a brief video call with the impersonator. Upon the caller's request for additional contact details, Cameron grew suspicious and ended the interaction. The government disclosed the incident to prevent potential misuse of the footage and to alert others to similar risks. The Foreign Office highlighted the increasing prevalence of misinformation and disinformation, particularly with the rise of AI technologies.