# First Minister of Wales dismisses Social Partnership Minister over leaked phone message



Welsh First Minister Vaughan Gething has dismissed Minister for Social Partnership, Hannah Blythyn, following the leak of a phone message to the media. The announcement was made on May 16, 2024. Gething cited the need to maintain confidence among government colleagues as the reason for Blythyn's removal. Blythyn, representing Delyn, denied any involvement in the leak, expressing shock at her dismissal.

The leak relates to a message Gething posted in a ministerial group chat in August 2020, where he mentioned deleting messages to prevent capture via Freedom of Information requests. This message surfaced amidst Gething's previous testimony at the UK Covid-19 Inquiry, where he claimed that lost WhatsApp messages were deleted by Welsh Parliament’s IT team during a security rebuild, not by him.

Political leaders Andrew RT Davies of the Welsh Conservative Party and Rhun ap Iorwerth of Plaid Cymru have criticized Gething's leadership, highlighting internal government divisions and questioning his judgment and transparency. Calls have also been made for an investigation into donations Gething received during his Welsh Labour leadership campaign.