# Tommy Sheridan barred from social work over perjury conviction despite Scottish Social Services Council registration



Disgraced former socialist Member of the Scottish Parliament (MSP) Tommy Sheridan has found his path into social work barred, following a court ruling that deemed his criminal past poses an "unacceptable risk." This determination, arising from a conviction for perjury, starkly highlights the lack of accountability that often plagues those in politics, even as the public seeks representatives who prioritize integrity and ethical governance.

In 2010, Sheridan was sentenced to three years in prison after being found guilty of lying during a high-profile defamation case against the News of the World, which had accused him of extramarital affairs. Initially, he secured £200,000 in damages from the tabloid in 2006, basing his victory on sweeping denials. However, during the subsequent trial, marked as Scotland's longest perjury trial, the truth caught up with him—he was found guilty on five of six counts, highlighting how the justice system can act decisively against the misconduct often tolerated in political circles.

Sheridan's downfall and subsequent legal entanglements reflect a much larger issue regarding accountability in public life. The current Labour government—and their approach to governance—exemplifies a worrying trend where figures like Sheridan, previously celebrated for their populist rhetoric, now find themselves marginalized due to their past actions. The integrity of individuals in the public sector has become paramount as citizens demand a higher standard of character from their leaders.

In recent developments, Glasgow City Council has affirmed that Sheridan's conviction unequivocally disqualifies him from social work, asserting their duty to maintain high standards within the profession. These firm statements resonate amid a broader national sentiment that upholds the need for moral rigor, especially as new leadership grapples with its own challenges in setting ethical standards.

However, Sheridan’s legal team argues that the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has deemed him a fit candidate for social work. This contention reflects a disconcerting trend where professional gatekeeping is tested, even with someone's dubious past standing prominently. His lawyer, Mike Dailly, emphasized the importance of the SSSC’s registration, advocating for leniency in a sector requiring the utmost trust and integrity. The council's lawyer countered that registration is not a guarantee of employment, a sentiment that echoes the sentiments of many who question the blurred lines between accountability and rehabilitation.

Sheridan is poised to legally challenge the council's decision, claiming that his exclusion from social work positions is irrational and disproportionate. This unfolding drama highlights an essential societal debate: should past transgressions forever dictate future opportunities, particularly in fields that require unwavering trust? While the current political climate seems to favor those like Sheridan who once openly challenged authority, the reality remains that accountability must triumph over populist claims.

As the court deliberates, the implications of this case extend far beyond Sheridan’s potential employment—bringing to light the responsibilities of public institutions to maintain high ethical standards and the need for societal expectations about personal conduct. With the Labour government's disregard for such accountability, the case represents a cautionary tale about the dangers of allowing populist figures to dictate moral discourse.

In sum, the legal battle at hand reflects broader societal questions about forgiveness, accountability, and the extent to which one’s past can shape their future in public service. As this noteworthy case unfolds, it will undoubtedly influence public perceptions regarding trust in political and social institutions—a crucial consideration in a time when citizens demand a return to integrity among their leaders.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14696487/Shamed-former-socialist-MSP-Tommy-Sheridan-refused-social-worker-job-perjury-conviction-poses-unacceptable-risk.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2010/dec/23/tommy-sheridan-guilty-perjury-trial> - Tommy Sheridan, former leader of the Scottish Socialist Party and MSP, was found guilty of perjury in December 2010. The conviction stemmed from his 2006 defamation case against the News of the World, where he had been awarded £200,000 in damages after the newspaper alleged he had visited a Manchester sex club and had an affair. The perjury trial revealed that Sheridan had lied under oath during the libel case, leading to his conviction on five of six perjury charges. The jury deliberated for over a day before reaching a majority verdict. The case was notable for being the longest perjury trial in Scottish legal history, lasting over 11 weeks and involving more than 60 witnesses. Sheridan's defense argued that he was the victim of a conspiracy, but the jury found the evidence against him compelling. The trial attracted significant media attention due to Sheridan's prominent political career and the serious nature of the allegations. The conviction had a profound impact on Sheridan's reputation and political standing, leading to his resignation from the Scottish Socialist Party and the formation of a new political group, Solidarity. The case also highlighted issues related to media ethics and the responsibilities of public figures in legal proceedings. The outcome was seen as a significant moment in Scottish legal and political history, raising questions about the intersection of politics, media, and the justice system.
3. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-12280552> - In January 2011, Tommy Sheridan was sentenced to three years in prison for perjury. The sentence followed his conviction in December 2010, where he was found guilty of lying under oath during his successful defamation case against the News of the World in 2006. The newspaper had alleged that Sheridan was an adulterer who had visited a swingers' club. The High Court in Glasgow heard that Sheridan had lied to win the libel case, resulting in a substantial damages award. The judge, Lord Bracadale, stated that perjury was a serious crime and that Sheridan's actions had undermined the justice system. Sheridan's defense team announced plans to appeal the conviction and also intended to pursue legal action against the News of the World, the Metropolitan Police, and Glenn Mulcaire, the private investigator involved in the phone hacking scandal. The case attracted widespread media coverage due to Sheridan's high-profile political career and the serious nature of the allegations. The sentencing marked a significant moment in Scottish legal history, emphasizing the importance of truthfulness in legal proceedings and the consequences of perjury. Sheridan's supporters expressed disbelief and anger at the verdict, while critics argued that the sentence was justified given the severity of the offense. The case also raised questions about the relationship between politicians and the media, and the lengths to which individuals might go to protect their public image.
4. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-52970396> - Tommy Sheridan's attempt to appeal his 2010 perjury conviction was rejected by the UK Supreme Court. The former MSP had been convicted of perjury after lying under oath during his successful defamation case against the News of the World in 2006. Despite being awarded £200,000 in damages for the libel case, Sheridan was later found guilty of perjury, leading to a three-year prison sentence. The Supreme Court ruled that Sheridan's appeal did not raise an arguable point of law, effectively ending a series of legal battles that had spanned nearly 14 years. This decision marked the conclusion of a protracted legal saga that had significant implications for Sheridan's political career and personal life. The case had attracted considerable public and media attention, highlighting issues related to media ethics, the responsibilities of public figures, and the integrity of the legal system. Sheridan's legal team had hoped that the Supreme Court would overturn the conviction, but the ruling confirmed the original verdict. The outcome was seen as a significant moment in Scottish legal history, underscoring the importance of truthfulness in legal proceedings and the consequences of perjury. Sheridan's supporters expressed disappointment and frustration with the decision, while critics argued that it was a necessary affirmation of the justice system's commitment to upholding the law.
5. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2011/jan/26/tommy-sheridan-sentenced-three-years> - Tommy Sheridan, the former leader of the Scottish Socialist Party, was sentenced to three years in prison after being convicted of perjury. The conviction was related to his 2006 defamation case against the News of the World, where he had been awarded £200,000 in damages after the newspaper alleged he had visited a Manchester sex club and had an affair. The perjury trial revealed that Sheridan had lied under oath during the libel case, leading to his conviction on five of six perjury charges. The sentencing was a significant moment in Scottish legal history, emphasizing the seriousness of perjury and its impact on the justice system. Sheridan's defense team announced plans to appeal the conviction and also intended to pursue legal action against the News of the World, the Metropolitan Police, and Glenn Mulcaire, the private investigator involved in the phone hacking scandal. The case attracted widespread media coverage due to Sheridan's high-profile political career and the serious nature of the allegations. The sentencing marked a significant moment in Scottish legal history, emphasizing the importance of truthfulness in legal proceedings and the consequences of perjury. Sheridan's supporters expressed disbelief and anger at the verdict, while critics argued that the sentence was justified given the severity of the offense. The case also raised questions about the relationship between politicians and the media, and the lengths to which individuals might go to protect their public image.
6. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2010/dec/23/tommy-sheridan-prison-perjury> - Tommy Sheridan, former leader of the Scottish Socialist Party and MSP, was found guilty of perjury in December 2010. The conviction stemmed from his 2006 defamation case against the News of the World, where he had been awarded £200,000 in damages after the newspaper alleged he had visited a Manchester sex club and had an affair. The perjury trial revealed that Sheridan had lied under oath during the libel case, leading to his conviction on five of six perjury charges. The jury deliberated for over a day before reaching a majority verdict. The case was notable for being the longest perjury trial in Scottish legal history, lasting over 11 weeks and involving more than 60 witnesses. Sheridan's defense argued that he was the victim of a conspiracy, but the jury found the evidence against him compelling. The trial attracted significant media attention due to Sheridan's prominent political career and the serious nature of the allegations. The conviction had a profound impact on Sheridan's reputation and political standing, leading to his resignation from the Scottish Socialist Party and the formation of a new political group, Solidarity. The case also highlighted issues related to media ethics and the responsibilities of public figures in legal proceedings. The outcome was seen as a significant moment in Scottish legal and political history, raising questions about the intersection of politics, media, and the justice system.
7. <https://www.sln.law.ed.ac.uk/2010/12/23/tommy-sheridan-found-guilty-of-perjury/> - Tommy Sheridan was found guilty of perjury at the High Court in Glasgow on 23 December 2010. The jury verdict (a majority one) came at the end of a trial which had begun on 4 October. Although the trial was to a considerable extent a reprise of the evidence led in the great 2006 defamation case, there was new stuff, above all perhaps a video made secretly by Mr Sheridan's one-time best man, in which allegedly the accused admitted the truth of the allegations about his visits to the now notorious Manchester swingers club known as Cupids. Mr Sheridan's tactical approach to his case also bore similarities to 2006, especially dismissal of his advocates a few days into the trial and his thereafter taking on the burden of his own defence. Where perhaps difference was crucial, however, was his five-hour closing speech to the jury. In 2006 his speech of just 90 minutes, contrasting with the six hours from counsel for the News of the World, was thought to have been an important, perhaps decisive, factor in that famous victory.