# Councillor sacked by Leicestershire Police on misconduct grounds sparks integrity concerns for populist movement



A newly elected councillor for a certain populist political movement, Andrew Hamilton-Gray, now finds himself at the center of a scandal following shocking revelations about his dismissal from Leicestershire Police last year. Hamilton-Gray, who vowed to serve with “honour, integrity and transparency,” was rightly sacked for gross misconduct after he callously feigned illness to enjoy a boat trip to Spain, as detailed in a recent misconduct hearing.

In the aftermath of the local elections earlier this month—where this rising political force managed to gain a foothold with 677 councillors elected across 1,750 seats—it has become increasingly clear that Hamilton-Gray's troubling past raises serious concerns about the quality of candidates being put forward. Although he managed to secure 40 per cent of the vote in Loughborough North West, defeating Labour, this is hardly a resounding endorsement of ethical governance.

The circumstances surrounding Hamilton-Gray’s dismissal from the police are nothing short of alarming. He was found guilty of breaching fundamental standards of honesty and integrity—actions described by the misconduct panel as “deliberate” attempts to cover for his jaunt to Barcelona. This was masqueraded as a business trip, ostensibly to deliver a car linked to his classic car sales business. Yet, he had no authorization for leave during a crucial time leading up to the King's Coronation.

During a disciplinary hearing, it emerged that Hamilton-Gray, then known as PC Andrew Gray, arranged a ferry trip to Spain just hours after calling in sick on the day of departure. His flimsy assurances about returning to work were dismantled by evidence indicating he had no intent of doing so. To make matters worse, he was subsequently spotted driving a high-end Porsche while claiming to be officially off work due to stress.

Chief Constable Robert Nixon, who oversaw the case, emphasized that such misconduct severely damages public trust in policing. While he acknowledged that this incident was an isolated blemish on an otherwise commendable career, the outright deceit necessitated immediate dismissal. Following this decision, Hamilton-Gray was placed on the College of Policing's barred list, effectively ending his policing career.

The troubling revelations about Hamilton-Gray's past raise urgent questions about the vetting processes for candidates within political circles. This particular movement, positioning itself as a more populist alternative, must face scrutiny regarding the quality of its candidates and the standards it upholds. Recently, the party’s leadership expressed intentions to enact change in local governance, yet the integrity of its representatives remains questionable amidst the controversies.

Critics are right to draw attention to the implications of appointing figures like Hamilton-Gray, suggesting that while the party may attract disenchanted voters, the integrity of its representatives cannot be overlooked. As the party attempts to navigate its newfound political position, it must strike a balance between swift electoral gains and ensuring high moral standards in its ranks.

Leicestershire's political landscape remains in flux, with the party gaining a foothold in various local authorities, including key regions like Lancashire and Durham. As Hamilton-Gray's constituency continues to grow, all eyes will be on how his controversial past shapes his future decisions—an essential litmus test for the party’s broader claims regarding transparency and integrity in governance.

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

## Bibliography

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